neGuardia

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Maria Maria



The German question

DENERS WATER SES

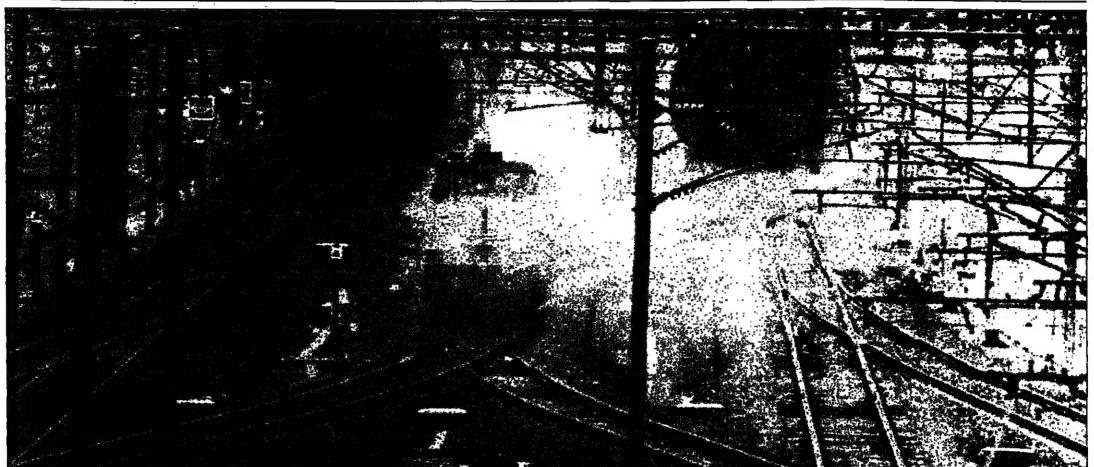


Squatters in the rainforest

Society

This was an unpleasant incident which should be seen as a satisfactory test of existing security systems'

Eurotunnel chief Patrick Ponsolle



Is the Channel tunnel safe?

Inquiry to focus on Britons who needed hospital treatment after suffering the effects of fitness and shock the train driver Emile Grand was the most seriously injured, but all the casualties the rest seriously injured, but all the casualties the rest seriously injured.

FULL-scale Anglo-French inquiry was under-way last night into the spectac-Tunnel freight train blaze focusing on the decision to halt the train, leaving lorry drivers and their passengers trapped in a fume-filled carriage for 20 minutes.

being asked about:

The controversial semiopen design of the shuttle
train, which allowed the fire
to spread from one lorry
through five wagons and fill car at the front of the train. Urgent questions were also being asked about:

the controversial semi-

the tunnel with toxic fumes.

failed to disperse smoke.

The decision of the train set in the corner preparing to manager to stop the train in the tunnel, rather than carry.

Another driver, Jeff Wagin ing on into the open, is likely to be at the centre of investigations. Eurotunnel's safety procedure is to get passengers out of the tunnel as quickly as possible, with full-scale evacuation only used as a last

Lorry driver Ian Edwards why it took the French authorities one hour to alert the British fire brigade
why ventilation systems failed to disperse smoke.
said: "Things got pretty desperate. Everybody was mosning on the floor. One pregnant lady was getting pretty hysterical," he said. "I

Another driver, Jeff Wagh-orn described how he lay on the floor of the furne-filled Shuttle train and feared he would never get out alive. "It was choca-bloc with smoke.

was conce-bloc with smoke.

If you'd stood up and breathed in you would have fallen down again."

He said drivers laid on the floor bolding damp napkins to their noses for what he estimated was 10 to 15 minutes. There was a knock on the side of the train. Someone



heard the door open. All they said was 'Allez, allez' - go, go."

tory test of existing security

systems. But the accident — the most

'I sat in the comer preparing to die. i thought was a goner

Lorry driver lan Edwards vesterday

said Right, they're here'. I | serious since the tunnel opened for commercial business two years ago — has raised fresh concerns about Last night Eurotunnel's president Patrick Ponsolle described the fire as an "unpleasant incident", but said it should be seen as a satisfacthe safety of the tunnel, the rolling stock and the evacua-

tion procedures.
The Anglo-French tunnel safety authority and Eurotun-nel launched inquiries as drivers on the FolkestoneMonday. The fire took some 14 hours to extinguish, after half the train and around onethird of the tunnel had been

In the Co secretary Sir George Young said the findings of the British inquiries into the blaze would be made public and that he would urge the French authorities carrying out a separate inquiry to do

Concerns about the semi-Concerns about the semi-open "trellis" design of the wagons were raised long ago by both the Consumers' Association and the British Safety Council, who feared that any fire would rage un-controllably throughout the train. A fire on the car shut-tle, by contrast, would be con-fined to one compartment.

fined to one compartment. Harry Beckingham, head of the fire division at the British Safety Council, said yester-

bound shuttle described how day that the freight shuttles quacy of the safety proce-the fire broke out more than had never been given as dures and any steps which 11 miles into the tunnel just much consideration by Eurothat the BSC had warned

The Guardian

Over recent weeks, we have been experiencing production problems which have seriously affected our

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transmission equipment at both our

overseas print sites - an investment

which will ensure a regular and timely

distribution of The Guardian International to our readers all over

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Guardian International available in as

many countries as possible, as early as

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distribution in some countries.

about their dangers. He also accused the debt-ridden operator of "cost-cut-ting", by watering down pense of safety. "The problem is that it is under pressure to make money for its shareholders, when it should be spending money on a higher standard of rolling stock" he

Shadow transport secretary Andrew Smith called for the evidence, as well as the findings of the inquiries, to be pounds.

To our readers.

the world.

said.

Eurostar and car shuttle last night it hopes that one of the two rail tracks should be operating a partial service today. Full services are unlikely to be resumed for at least another month. While Eurotunnel's share price suffered only a modest fall yes-terday, the company is facing a repair bill of millions of

a full inquiry to determine Leader comment, page 8; the causes of the fire, the ade-

the NHS . . . learn first aid faces £1m legal costs

RITAIN must become a nation of first-aiders to ease pressure on struggling NHS casualty units, a government report said yes-terday. Emergency care skills could become part of the driving test:
The idea that "you don't

muck around" with people injured or taken ill must be challenged, according to the report by an expert group. Basic life-saving skills should be taught in schools and to adults. A new, 999-style service should offer telephone advice to people on how to administer on-the-spot emer-

gency care.

Although the proposals will be seen as a genuine initiative to improve people's firstaid knowledge, and to divert patients with less serious problems away from hard-pressed accident and emer-gency departments, they will be seized on by critics as

good. But it's no substitute for a properly resourced A&E service."

tem of emergency care may be too focused on traditional access points like 999 calls. family doctors and accident and emergency departments of hospitals."

The experts drew on the views of two "focus" groups.

proof of under-investment in health services.

Alastair Henderson, of Unison, the biggest health union, said: "Having people training in first aid is all well and make a real difference." make a real difference."

A national education campaign should teach people

a properly resourced A&E service."

The report is part of the Government's response to the crisis in emergency care that hit the NHS last winter. It was drawn up by a group headed by Str Kenneth Callonder of the crisis in ending with breathing difficulties, heart attack, bleeding, burns and scalds, and sc hit the NHS last winter. It was drawn up by a group headed by Sir Kenneth Calman, chief medical officer.
Stephen Dorrell, Health Secretary, said: "One of the main reasons for undertaking this review was widespread concern that our existing system of emergency care may have a spart of the driving test."

skills in dealing with breathing difficulties, heart attack, choking, pain, poisoning, convulsions, loss of consciousness and fractures, it says. They should be encouraged to attend first-aid courses, and skills could be examined as part of the driving test.

and skills could be examined as part of the driving test. Mr Dorrell also announced the proposed new Patient's Charter standard for A&E de-partments. It would say: "If you go to an A&E department, you go to an Age department,
you can expect to be assessed
by a doctor or trained nurse.
If you require immediate
treatment you will be assessed at once, otherwise
within 15 minutes of arrival."

Help to ease the crisis in | Libelled former Irish PM

Maggle O'Kane

minister, Albert Reyn-olds, today faces a legal hill of up to £1 million, despite a jury deciding he was li-belled by the Sunday Times. belled by the Sunday Times.

After a 24-day hearing and 18 hours of deliberations, a High Court jury in London found in favour of Mr Reynolds but awarded "zero" damages.

Mr Reynolds, aged 64, sued the Sunday Times after a November 1994 story headed "Goodbye gombeen man. Why a fib too far proved fatal".

It focused on the reasons for his resignation as Taoiseach and was, said Mr Reynolds, a "horrible, vicious, villifying article which it was

tifying article which it was unnecessary to write". The paper defined a gombeen man, derived from Gaelic, as "the local fixer with a finger in every pie".

The jury in Court 13 decided by 10 to one that even though the newspaper was



lied and misled the Dail over the events leading to his resignation in 1994, it had not acted maliciously. It had simply repeated allegations made in the privileged surround-ings of the Irish parliament. The article alleged Mr Reynolds had not given the full facts to the Dail when be

defended Harry Whelehan then recently promoted from attorney-general to president of the Irish high court — against criticism for delays in extraditing a paedophile priest, Brendan Smyth, to Northern Ireland. Mr Reynolds denied deceiv-

mr Reynous tented teceiving his Labour coalition part-ner, Dick Spring, and some of his Dail colleagues about his knowledge of the case. He said he had accepted in good faith Mr Whelehan's explanation that he had not seen the relevant file on the case or been told about it, and that it was a complex issue with no precedent

The jury's award of "zero damages" means Mr Reyn-olds faces a huge legal bill. Lawyers will today argue over who will pay the costs, and whether the newspaper was covered by qualified privilege.

Mr Reynolds said after-wards: "I took this case to Turn to page 2, column 3

Riddle baffles court, page 2

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Sketch

Liz stars in an unfamiliar role



Simon Hoggart

name "Elizabeth Taylor". Everyone snig-gered. Elizabeth Peacock MP, who was actually trying to ask a question, looked puzzled, as well she might. The two grandes dames are hard to con-fuse. Mrs Peacock was married only once, and her wed-ding was not attended by Michael Jackson or his pet

apes. She has never dallied with an unemployed truck driver. To my knowledge, Richard Burton never spoke publicly about the beauty of her breasts. The only thing they have in common is that rei-ther has made a decent film in

the past 30 years. Prime Minister's Questions was silly and peevish. It al-ways is, but it seemed a little worse than usual. Tony Blair wanted to know why the Prime Minister had not made good his promise of two years ago to eliminate mixed-sex

wards in the NHS. Mr Major could hardly reply that this did not matter because they're all old wrinklies anyway, or that if you've seen one blanket bath you've seen them all. He said that the important thing now was to get more people ireated, "and then we will move on to

improve dignity and privacy" Mr Blair began again, "I must say I find that extraordi-nary..." Not asking a question is technically a breach of order, so the Tories moved in with the barrage of noise they deploy against him these days. It's like Phil Spector's amous "Wall of Sound" though without three beautiful black girls swaying in tight-fitting spangled dresses. Betty Boothroyd was, as she

so often is these days, outraged. As they bellowed 'Order!" at her she pointed a finger and shouted that she needed no lessons from them. The problem is that, as any eacher will tell you, once a

whole class becomes unruly there is little you can do, short of expelling the lot, and the Commons has not yet become the legislative equivalent of the Ridings School.

When the noise finally subsided, Mr Blair said it was not a matter of money but of political will. Why had the Prime Minister not kept his word?
Mr Major replied, to Marga-

ret Hodge, that she and Mr Blair spent "question time after question time" painting a picture of the NHS "which does not exist for the people who use the service'

Again, one asked, where has he been living? Does he have the faintest idea of what is really going on, or only the magical statistics conjured up by the Department of Feelth? by the Department of Health? Later there was a short and sombre discussion on the fire in the Channel tunnel, relieved only when Sir George Young the transport secre-tary, promised that he would shortly be holding talks with his opposite number in France, M Ponce.

Labour giggled like silly schoolboys. Everyone knows that "ponce" has a rude mea ing: it's the official term for our government's Policy of Non-Cooperation with Europe. Sadly, it turns out that the name is spelled
"Pons", so should be pronounced nearer to Ponz.
Finally, an apology is in

Elaine Kellett-Bowman's voice was higher than 2000 MHz and that this could have a dangerous effect on electronic flight equipment. The Dame's intervention in the discussion on trade union rights yesterday (she's agains them, and a whole caveful of baby bats died in the Commons rafters to prove it) gives me the opportunity to quote a kindly letter from Professor Robert Moore of Holywell.

"I think you have got your hertz in a twist. You might hear her at 500 hertz; 440hz is the note 'A'. At 500 Khz you radio turned to the international maritime distress frequency . . . at 1000 or 2000 MHz she would only be heard by a passing satellite before her

I am glad to set the record straight and would like to apologise for any distress caused to Dame Elaine, or in-

Riddle of Irish PM's exit baffles court

We referred a couple of months ago to Dungloe, in the far north-west of Donegal, where the gombeen man and higgler, the only surviving contemporaries of the cave tiger, the plesiosaurus, and other primeval monsters, still roved about, picking the bones of their victims. The creature will soon be extinct . . . anyone who wants to see these survinors of the ferocious, man-devouring creatures which once wallowed in the primordial slime had better make haste and take the train to Dungloe, where they can still be stalked and their

Trish Homestead 1907

habits observed.

David Sharrock on an extraordinary case

AR from his natural environment in the Irish boglands, the clusive gombeen man and his habits have been under scrutiny in the High Court for the past six weeks. It has been a thankless task for a jury un-versed in the mores and linguistics of the neighbouring Along the way the curse of

Court 13 has seen the with-drawal of a diabetic juror, witnessed two bereavements witnessed two bereavements, a general gastric attack, the temporary indisposition of a juror with tonsilitia, and another who had to rush to the hospital bedside of a mother with gallstones. There were three cases of food poisoning in the press box. Albert Reynolds fall and injured himself. olds fell and injured himself. It has been an impenetrable tale from start to finish, a story of two conflicting edi-tions of the same weekend's

Sunday Times — an Irish one in which the paper gentled Mr Reynolds through his fall from power, and a British edi-

and fib. A dictionary was asked for by the jury but refused by the judgs.

Like archaeologists groping through the burial chamber of an unknown Celtic sect, the court was led through evidence from the infamous Beef the gentleman with the mous-

economy.

Albert Reynolds leaves the court after its double-edged verdict Tribunal, the longest and tache?" pleaded the judge dur- 'Maybe we will never, ever costilest inquiry held in Ireland, which played a part, evidence. 'The judge dur- 'Maybe we will never, ever finish maybe we are doomed to exist in Court 13

James Price QC, for the Sunday Times, remarked that there was not much that could be done about Mr O'Des, short of elocution lessons. Mr Price later apologised after the Dublin press pack explained to him that he had flown in the face of an old Irish tradition "which clearly states that we can laugh at Willie O'Dea but you can't'.

In his immaculate suits and permanent suntan, Mr Reynolds never looked like a gombeen man, the small-town merchant who, according to tion in which he was accused if was purgatory for the form of lying. Or rather, telling "s fib too far".

In the end it was not gombeen which defeated the jury words like Taoiseach, Dail, but the difference between its and fib. A dictionary was asked for by the jury but words like to go the fine in fact or a scrap. Gomben is the distance of the fine minutive. A textbook of economics might well be condended by the jury but sucked on a silver spoon.

Then the end it was purgatory for the jury all y achieves a stranglehold on his neighbours. "Gombe in in Gaelic means vaguely a bit or a scrap. Gombe in its neighbours."

To be the form of the fine on the initial on his neighbours. "Gombe in its neighbours."

To be the form of the fine on the initial on his neighbours. "Gombe in its neighbours."

To be the form of the fine on the initial on his neighbours. "Gombe in its neighbours."

To be the form of the fine on the fine of the fine

forever, gnawing on the Beef Tribunal report for sustenance and admiring James Price's wig."

Six weeks later, the High

Court has shed no light on the mystery of the disappearing Taoiseach. But it has provided a clearer picture of how

PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN SMITH

two countries are divided by a common language.
In fact, it was Mr. Reynolds's spin doctor. Sean Duignan, who gave the best explanation for his old boss's fall from grace. Mr Duignan recalls in his memoir. One "I felt like the parrot on the great ocean liner, watching

the ship's magician perform a disappearing trick.

"Just as he cried abraca-dabra, the liner hit an iceberg, turned turtle, almost instantly slid under the waves. leaving nothing but a few bits of flotsam onto which the par-rot fluttered, looked around and said: Fantastic. How the fuck did he do that?"

Card chaos reward for Sainsbury

The heavily publicised Reward scheme was set up in the summer as part of a rearguard action to try to regain its position as market leader, lost to Tesco.

Staff manning a special hot-line set up to handle the Reward cards say there have been "countless" calls from shoppers whose loyalty points appear to have disappeared from the running totals on

their receipts.

The staff say the breakdown happened after an addi-tional bonns scheme — whichgives extra points on more than 200 items — was intro-

than 200 items — was intro-duced three weeks ago.

There are fears that the problems with the cards — taken up by 7 million of Sainsbury's 12 million cus-tomers — could dent the supermarker's image months before it is due to launch a personal banking arm in con-junction with the Royal Bank of Scotland.

Frank Davidson, retail analyst at City firm HSBC James Capel, said: "It would be a di-

found to be going wrong. We knew there had been a prob-AINSBURY has suffered a setback in the shipermarket wars after admitting yesterday that a widespread computer glitch has thrown its new loyalty card schane into chaos.

The company yesterday insisted that a central computer is keeping a correct score of individual accounts and customers will not lose out. It said the computer system which hardless the computer system. tomers will not lose out. It said the computer system which handles the reward points scheme was entirely separate from the software it will be introducing to handle personal bank accounts.

A spokeswoman last night confirmed its computer software was not coping with the points scheme and had ex-perienced "a few glitches". She said it was not concentrated at any particular store and was cropping up "here and there".

She was unable to say whether technicians would be able to rectify the problem before Christmas when millions of card holders are expected to try to exchange their points for vouchers.
The Reward scheme is

being promoted on prime time television, and shoppers have been promised that the new bonus scheme carries enough points to give a family spending £75 a week four flights to Paris within a

month.
Sainsbury is confident its scheme is viable and will not suffer the same problems as Capel, said: "It would be a di-saster publicity-wise if the points scheme which is sup-posed to increase sales was chase over \$100.

Council says no to **Cartland Gardens**

Stuart Miller

N the heavily powdered world of Barbara Cartland, nobody is beastly, sappy young virgins are snapped up by handsome princes and everybody gets their just deserts. But the world's most prolific author yesterday discov-ered that the real world is not quite like that. Council leaders in

Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, refused to name a
new housing development
after her, despite the fact
that it includes Walton
Tewkesbury any and
want Tewkesbury associated with," said councillor
Des McKeown.
Instead, they decided to House, the Georgian man-sion her grandfather took

The self-styled Queen of Romance — she has written more than 600 romantic novels and, at 95, still churns out one a formight — spent childhood holidays at Walton House. It became a council-run children's home in 1946, and was con-

which she said would at-tract "little people" and make the town "common". But while others might have been falling over themselves to slap up a blue national heritage plaque, the town council made it plain that pink and fluffy was not the image it was after and rejected a proposal to name it Cart-land Gardens.

"I think Barbara Cart-land is a very silly lady and

name the street after Dorothy Grover, a former ma-That she was refused an honour accorded to even have come as a shock to Dame Barbara. But yesterday she came out fighting. "I can't be that silly have written 645 books," she said. "I'm known in verted into luxury flats sur-rounded by 15 houses in 1994. Dame Barbara op-posed the development, doesn't like me."

Review

Dancer fancies Futurist foodie

The Vokuptuous Tango

T a time when plenty of far less able composers have rushed into the opera house, usually with di-sastrous results, Dominic Muldowney, musical director at the Royal National Theatre,

has yet to compose a fully fledged opera.

There has been no shortage of offers, but his response has always been that he would not be content scrupulously ob-serving the conventions. He would want to create a hybrid part sung, part spoken, with a mixed cast of actors and singers. At that point, it seems, opera-house adminstrators have generally taken fright.

But Muldowney has now composed a "radio opera". issioned by the BBC, with a text by David Zane bears little resemblance to opera is reckoned to be. It is essentially an electronic score, a two-hander with the major roles taken by actorsingers Maria Friedman and Alan Belk, a small male chorus used sparingly as a narrator and a limited range of instrumental colours. The sound of an orchestra tuning up in the opening moments is

from Bizet's Carmen sharpens the satire a little more. The Voluptuous Tango brings to life an encounter in Paris one evening in the 1920s between the dancer Isadora Duncan and the Futurist

towards convention, while the

parodic use of the Habanera

Andrew Clements | sculptor F. T. Marinetti. Dun-can sees Marinetti as a poten-tial stud — "this Italian stallion is just the one to be the father of my next year's kid"
— while the food-crazed sculp tor sees her in purely gastronomic terms: "I'll soon be spreading her like anchovy paste on artichoke hearts." Their exchanges, full of

sharp one-liners and operatio references, make up the bulk of this hour-long work, all played out against the background of insinuating tango rhythms and the acerbic sound of an accordion band. If there is any model for what Muldowney is attempt-

ing it is the theatre pieces of Brecht and Weill. The easy transitions between speech and song, the constant resort to vernacular song, and the lilt of the vocal lines underline But in the end it seems mu-

sically too limited; in a me-dium that has almost infinite possibilities Muldowney rations his resources too fruhas overdone the use of the tango, and just when one long for the piece to take off and really transcend its material i remains tied down.

But, heaven knows, there is too little imaginative use of radio by composers for The Voluntuous Tango to be dismissed out of hand. The disap pointment is that Muldowney of what is possible even farther and go on to produce something genuinely innova-tive. Presumably that will be his next challenge, whether of tape again, or at last in the

This review appeared in some editions yesterday.

Libelled former Irish PM faces £1 m bill

justification

however obscure, in Mr Reyn-

Judge Christopher French was moved to describe the background to the case as

"virtually impossible". He

could be sure of the sympathy

of the Irish nation, who in November 1994 watched in amazement as Mr Reynolds's

government fell apart for no

compelling reason. At the time he had just brokered the

IRA ceasefire and enjoyed the largest parliamentary major-

ity ever, and a vibrant

olds's downfall.

continued from page 1 clear my good name and up-hold my reputation. I am pleased that the jury agreed

that I am not a liar.
"In relation to other aspects and the decision, this will be the subject of discussion be-

have to prove it."

The Sunday Times, which had published a much more and deny and deny again."

gentle version of the article in that he lied to the parliament. its Irish edition than it had in He suggested a sum of dam-Britain, denied libel, pleading qualified privilege and

It argued that Mr Reynolds had known enough the day before he spoke to the Dail to the subject of discussion between me and my legal team.

I am not prepared to let the other aspects rest here."

He said his main purpose in fighting the case was that "I will not be called a liar. Anyone who calls me a liar will had been confusion and ineffi-

ages between 245,000, as an "absolute base minimum". and the upper end of the scale towards £125,000.

James Price QC, for the newspaper, told the jury that any damages awarded should be very small—skin to a sun of 23,000 which Mr Reynolds would have received if he had really been physically mugged and his jaw broken, as Lord Williams had suggested the Sunday Times had metaphorically done to his

Pope agrees Cuba visit

John Hooper In Rome

HE Pope yesterday ac-cepted an invitation from Fidel Castro to visit Cuba next year - an indication that Vatican diplomats have succeeded in wringing from Havana a promise that the Pontiff will be free to do and say what-ever he likes on the island. "Of course I would not im pose conditions. We will treat him with repect." President Castro said after the meeting. But, in a development that will disappoint Cuban exiles and opponents of the Castro regime, there was no firm evidence to suggest that the Pope had raised the issue of human rights in their historic 35-

ninute encounter. It was the first time the two ideological foes had met. The Vatican spokesman, Joaquín Navarro-Valls, said President Castro had bowed and said: "Holiness, it is for me an hon-our." The Pope had thanked him, then ushered him into



Fidel Castro and the Pope yesterday PHOTOGRAPH: ARTURO MAR

Mr Navarro-Valls said. But he would not be drawn on whether the Pope had raised the issue of human rights. Both sides are in a position

President Castro, wearing a dark blue suit, swept into the Vatican amidst a motorcade of more than a dozen vehicles including a four-wheel drive to offer each other a lot. The with a machine gun on the Vatican wants Havana to top. After his audience with with a machine gun on the the Pope, he visited St Peter's

ANYBODY. WE DON'T WANT YOU.

Being an Officer in the TA isn't for everybody. So most of you can stop

Only the bost can take the pressure, give credit where it's due, set high standards and live by them. Only the best can have men look up to thembut leok down on no-one.

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Labour joins Tory sceptics

Ewon MacAskill, Chief Political Correspondent

mons debate on the single currency rafher than leave it to an obscure committee that scrutines European Union docu- for a full debate.

The Vatican library.

the Vatican library.

the Vatican library.

the Vatican library.

the Pope, he visited St Peter and the Sistine Chapel.

Their "open discussion", Coba, where there are fewer than 200 clerics for a population of 11 million. The Cu
Stessings for Cuba, page 7.

head today.

Labour will add to the Gov ABOUR last night sought forcing a vote on the issue in to exploit Government dif-ficulties over a single cur-ment could lose. Two Tories on rency by encouraging its MPs | the committee, Peter Bottomley to sign a motion backed and John Whittingdale, have mainly by Tory Eurosceptics.

The motion calls for a Comful debate. The Leader of the

the conditions of existence of bans, for their part, would the Church in Cuba and, in like the Vatican's belp in general, the role of the falthful in Cuba's national life", its embargo.

BBC in call for **BSkyB** curbs

Andrew Culf Media Corres

R Christopher Bland Schairman of the BBC, yesterday delivered the corporation's strongest attack on Rupert Murdoch's potential stranglehold over the gateway to digital television. He called for clear and en-forceable rules to ensure that the BBC and other broadcast-ers can compete with Mr

Murdoch's growing BSkyB satellite operation. Sir Christopher said: "News International and BSkyB between them have a monopoly of satellite distribution in the UK, dominate the provision of programmes to cable homes, and have a nearmonopoly of those programming thettering provision. ming 'battering rams', sport and movies."

He told a conference orga-nised by the Westminster Media Forum that Mr Murdoch owned the proprietary technology — the set-top box decoders — that will control access to digital television and the systems that will manage subscriptions to pay

Mr Murdoch plans to launch 200 digital satellite channels next year and his opponents fear he will be able to prevent other broadcasters from being able to offer satel-

lite services.

Sir Christopher, who said he was not "whingeing", admitted that Mr Murdoch had built up his position through risk-taking and massive in-vestment. But he warned: "l am certain that it would be unwise to rely on the normal process of commercial negoti-

He was far from confident He was far from confident that the BBC would be able to agree satisfactory terms for digital access, and said Mr Murdoch could jeopardise the future of digital terrestrial television — due to launch in mid-1996 with up to 36 channels — unless the Government regulated the decoders. It should be mandatory that set-top boxes for digital terrestrial and satellite services

restrial and satellite services were compatible. Sir Christopher said broad-cast information was too important to be left to market pressures alone. "We should not, if we value democracy, create an 'information under class' through allowing sub-scription and pay channels to become the main source of PHOTOGRAPH: RICHARD MILDENHALL . news and current affairs."



Second coming at the Lyceum

HERE'S no business like old showbusiness. A new produc-tion of Jesus Christ Superstar opened last night, 25 years after its world premiere in the United States. The grandfather of rock opera is being revived at the Lyceum theatre in the Strand, which reopens as a theatre

after 56 years.
The Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice musical opened in London's West End in 1972, and went on to gross £7.5 million during its eight-year Lon-don run. It was the longest running musical until overtaken by other Lloyd Webber offerings — Cats, Starlight Express and Phantom of the

Opera.
The Lyceum has been dark for more than 10 years; before that it was a dance hall, a bingo parlour and a venue for

Broadway from 1971 to 1973, and grossed £2.8 million at the box office. Critics hailed it as "Best English

musical score in years" and, less favourably, "Closer to rock bottom

than rock musical".

consciousness in July as the opening act of the Prince's Trust Masters Of Rock concert in front of 150,000 people in Hyde Park.

According to director Gale Edwards, Balsamo is uncan-nily suitable for the part of Jesus. "He's got a great charisma. Rock opera has returned

from the 1970s, with tank tops, huge sideburns and lava lamps. A revival of Hair was staged in London in 1993, but the Age of Aquarius, it seemed, no longer held the same attraction, and the musical did not last.
James Thane, managing di-

rector of the Really Useful Theatre Company, which is producing the show, said the the Miss World contest. The piece seemed right for refit has cost £15 million. revival: "It's rock opera. I

Long playing record

☐ The musical ran on Broadway from 1971 to 1973, and grossed £2.8 million at the box for three months. ☐ Soundtrack made it to top of the US charts three times. Japanese kabuki version by Yuichiro Yamaguchi came to London

Dominion in 1992. ☐ A 1973 film starring Carl Anderson as Jesus and Yvonne Elliman as Mary Magdalene took £8.6 million at the box office.

☐ Ran in West End from 1972-1980, becoming longest-running musical. Grossed £7.5 million. Still the fifth longest running musical in West End history. ☐ Has been staged in at least 15 countries, including Kenya and Mexico. ☐ 1972 Australian concert version attracted audience of nearly a million.

Jesus is played by a 25-year-old Welsh rock singer-song-writer, Steve Balsamo, who was launched on to the public plete original score as much as possible. If you think the original cast were using hand-held mikes — this was before the age of radio mikes.
When it's done with modern
sound techniques it sounds

The theatre

has been

50 years — the show

old but now it all

a bright

as rock

opera returned

to the

new hope

West End last night

Clare Longrigg on a

musical revival

closed for more than

is 25 years

represents

The production has tried to remove the show from its 1970s garb, taking it as far as possible from modern styling. Mr Thane said: "A big fac was the Lyceum Theaire be-coming available. I was a kid when I saw the Australian production in the 1970s . . . It's quite a confrontational piece, and we wanted to do it in a way which avoids too much technology."

Designer John Napter has done just that, by pouring rubble on the stage and placing planks across the prosce nium arch. "One hopes the whole look

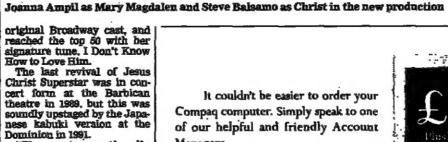
of the production is that it could have taken place any time in the last 2,000 years," said Mr Thane. The musical launched

Andrew Lloyd Webber on to the international stage, but its marathon runs also launched a series of stellar

Paul Nicholas, who played Jesus in the original London cast, said he found it a har-rowing role: "I was so upset at being on the cross that I wept the whole way through the scene. I felt guilty about being up there; as if it were an awful cheek."

Mr Nicholas went on to a highly successful career in television, and is producing the hit West End production

ago." Enthusiastic The musical also launched singer Yvonne Elliman, who remarked, perhaps unkindly, that Tim Rice's lyrics sound played Mary Magdalen in the ed much better in Japa



"The most sensationally Managers. wonderful production I have ever seen anywhere," said Andrew Lloyd Webber mod-estly. "It was everything I would have wished the Broad-Alternatively should you require way production to be 20 years

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Camelot profits fall in an Instant

Lottery bets on midweek draw from February to boost sales

Dan Atkinson

HE controversial mid-week lottery draw will begin on February 5, op-erator Camelot announced yesterday. It expects this second weekly draw to in-crease takings by up to 20 per cent boosting the average total bet every seven days from about £69 million to about £82 million.

Jackpot payouts on the midweek game are expected to total £4 million, with one-third of stakes shifting to the Wednesday draw. BBC TV will be screening the new game, and Camelot denied it was recoting with PTV for was negotiating with ITV for both draws to shift to Channel 3 when the BBC contract runs

3 when the BBC contract runs out at the end of next year.
Critics of the Wednesday game have suggested it will further divert money from charitable giving and will tempt people to gamble more

than they can afford. The Prime Minister has defended the midweek idea, saying: "I don't see why the nanny state should stop this if there's a demand for it." Camelot needs a new

Camelot needs a new product to fill the gap left by a collapse in sales of instants scratch cards; the consortium disclosed yesterday that Instants sales in the 24 weeks to September 14 had more than halved to 2419 million, from 2871 million during the same period last year. Weekly sales have dropped from a peak of 244 million to £17 million. 244 million to £17 million.

This downturn in Instants betting dragged Camelot's overall profits down to £31.5 million before tax against £36.2 million during the same

period in 1995. Prize payouts were down to £1.06 billion from £1.27 billion last time. Camelot said the shrinking public appetite for scratch cards was in line with experience of other lottery opera-



needed throughout Camelot's remaining six-year franchise period to stimulate demand, said chief executive Tim Holley. He said the company had "a lot of ideas on new games", but would not elaborate.

Mr Holley said it was too early to say whether the tele-vision contract would remain

with the BBC after next year.
Camelot said it had started to examine the possibility of overseas expansion. It would not comment on suggestions that it might bid for a national lottery in South

The consortium said any betting shops making books on lottery numbers was on lottery numbers was "properly a province of government", but warned that ending the prohibition could divert 20 per cent — £1 billion — of sales from Camelot to the bookies, depriving the "good causes" of their 28 per cent share of this sum.

Alongoide the declining

cent share of this sum.
Alongside the declining popularity of Instants, the main draw increased its take to £1.68 billion from £1.64 billion last time. At present, 30 million people play the National Lottery regularly and the apprage stake per perand the average stake per per-

and the average state per per-son is £2.40.

The company's main share-holders — Cadbury Schwep-pes, de La Rue, ICL, GTech and Racal Electronics — will share a £10 million half-year

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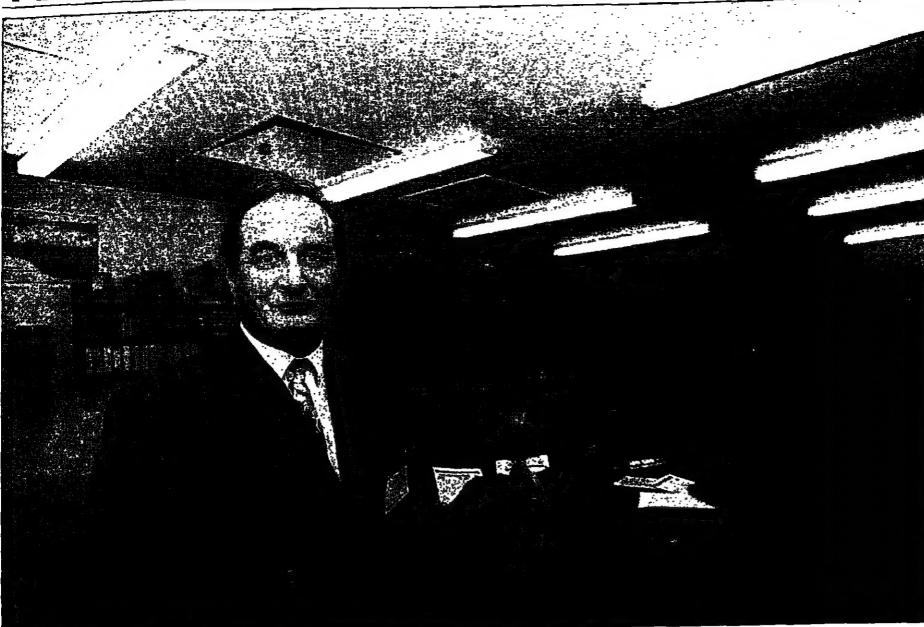


COMPAÇ COSAS YOU LESS HANN CHEAPER COMPUTERS

Serra Pelada, once a raucous boom town, is now a ghost. A sign in the street offers "One Hour Processing" but it refers to malaria tests, not film.

Jan Rocha on the destruction of Brazil's rainforest

Society G2 page 10



Brian Lippitt, head of Ramsgate School in Kent, cites the harmful effects of selection on his school, which he says is doing well despite its place in the table PHOTOGRAPH: GARRY WEASER

Exam results below target

Shephard claims the credit for modest improvement revealed in annual school league tables

John Carvel **Education Editor**

RE Government the improvements in GCSE and A level performance revealed in the annual league tables for schools in England and Wales published today. But the increase was not

enough to salvage any realistic chance of achieving the educational targets set for the can keep pace with its eco- five days.

The targets include the goal of 85 per cent of 19-year-olds having at least five GCSEs at grades A*-C, or their vocational equivalents, Sir Ron Dearing, the Government's senior curriculum adviser. has said that can only be achieved if the proportion reaching this level by the age of 16 rises to 55 per cent.

Today's figures show 44.5 per cent reached the standard an increase of one percentage point on the year before. Similar modest improvements were made at A level and in vocational qualifications. There was a slight drop in the numbers not achieving even the lowest grade in a single GCSE, but the figures indicate 50.000 (7.9 per cent)

left school with nothing. Gillian Shephard, Education Secretary, sought to attribute rising standards to a publishing performance tables four years ago. "The tables have consistently driven up standards, school by school, college by college ... This information provides an impetus for excellent schools and colleges to do even better, spurs those be-low average to set targets for improvement, and galvanises

poor performers into action." But the headmaster of the school with the best GCSE results said the tables were "a cancer on the body of educa-tion". Martin Stephen, head of Manchester Grammar, where all 207 GCSE candidates got at least five top grades, said the tables had become "an illness, causing irreparable harm by bringing in a huge amount of

Exam results were pointless if they were not coupled with information about how well pupils achieved their potential. The tables put preswas last night sure on schools to enter good claiming credit for pupils for an unnecessary education - that's cram-

ming," Dr Stephen said. The tables showed the average pupil in England lost less than half a day a year through truancy, but there were seven inner city schools, in Birmingham, Manchester, Bradford, Leeds and London, year 2000 to ensure Britain where the average exceeded

> The London borough of Is lington achieved much better results than last year when Labour councillors were emharrassed by stark evidence of why one of their residents, party leader Tony Blair, chose a distant grant maintained school in preference to a local comprehensive.
>
> The proportion of Islington

pupils gaining at least five GCSEs at grade C or above rose from 17.4 to 22.4 per cent. But it remained bottom of the most widely used local education authority league.
The district with the high-

est proportion of children without a single GCSE at any grade was Knowsley in Merseyside where one in five of the 15-year-olds left school with nothing.

The National Union of Teachers said the national improvement in exam results was a credit to the hard work and dedication of pupils and teachers. "There was improvement in GCSE and A level results before league tables were ever invented. League tables do nothing to improve performance. They merely record it."

Peter Kilfoyle, Labour's education spokesman, said the sluggish rate of school lmprovement would be con-firmed by a report today showing maths standards were falling. Girls' 10-point lead over boys in exam results was cause for concern. Don Foster, the Liberal Democrat education spokes-man, called for the tables to be scrapped and replaced with statistics showing how much schools have improved their pupils' achievement against expectations.

went to a house in the town

neck. He then went to a car

park in Aldershot and threw himself off the sixth floor,

dying of a fractured skull and

verdicts of unlawful killing on the two women and sui-

The North Hampshire coro-

ner, who said there was no

evidence the women were les-blan lovers, told the jury:

brain injuries.

cide on Mallia.



Top state comprehensives at GCSE % of 15-yr-olds getting 5 or more grade A*-C GCSE 1996%

Liverpool Blue Cost, Liverpool (Boys) 97 Old Swinford Hospital, Stourbridge, W. Midlands (GM, Boys) e Coopers' Company & Coborn School, Essex (GM, Mixed) 93 St Albans Girls' School, St Albans, Herts (Girls) 93 The Kings' School, Peterborough (GM, Mixed)

Top comprehensives/colleges at A level Average point score per A/AS level entry A/ASpoints 1996

Hills Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge (Mixed) 7.5 Tring School, Harts (VC, Mixed) 7.1 Copthall School, Barnet, London (Girls) 7-1 Durham Johnston Comprehensive School, Durham (Mixed) 7.0 Hitchin Girls' School, Herts, (Girls) 7.0 Tailis School, Greenwich, London (Mixed) 7.0

Bottom local education authorities % of 15-yr-olds getting 5 or more grade A*-C (excluding independent schools)

Islinaton 17.4 Kingston upon Hull 22-8 Knowsley 23.6 Tower Hamlets 23.9 Southwark 24.6

Fastest improving comprehensives at GCSE % of 15-yr-olde getting 5 or more grade A*-C, ranked by Improvement over last year

	GO Improveme	nt, % 1996 f	igures, %
Banovalk	um School, Homcastie, Lincs. (Mod. Mixed)	28	0
St John's RC C	Comp, Bishop Aukland c. Durham (VA, Mixed)	24	3
Stanches Stol	ter Community School, te-sub-Hamdon, Yeovil	24	60
Hillyiew Sch	ool for Giris, Tonbridge, Kent (GM, Mod Giris)	21	3
St Ber Wycon	marti's RC school, High abe, Bucks(VA, Mixed)	21	3
Sexey's Sc	hool, Bruton, Somerset (GM, Mixed)	21) .,
The isles of S	cilly County Secondary hool, St Mary's (Mixed)	21	9
	VA—voluntury sid	ed: GMarant m	aintained

Trying hard

Hard-pressed head bemoans 'negative' effect of tables

OR Ramsgate School in Kent, the league table results appear bleak — 1 per cent with five A to C grades. per cent of the pupils also have special educational needs — physical, emotional writes Donald Macleod.

Yet for a secondary mod-ern, the 63 per cent who gained at least five A to G grades in summer represent an achievement for the pupils and a big improvement on four years ago when only half did so, insists head teacher verbal reasoning tests to enfour years ago when only half did so, insists head teacher

Since he arrived in April gress they should. 1995 he has seen the morale and self-esteem of pupils and staff rising. "The mes that this place is recovering and doing well."

hammer constantly to staff three years.

Top marks

Success no

'pushy' seat

surprise at

of learning

children to read, write and cast accounts" and it is only in the last 25 years that it has moved to the top

and parents, and today's

league tables will not make it any easier. "One of [their]

negative effects is that I am going to have to spend a lot of time building them up again."

For a school on the wrong end of an academic selection policy the playing field is anything but level. The top 25 per cent of local pupils go to grammar schools while the

Ramsgate School serves a

council estate where 58 per

cent of children come from jobless homes and 59 per cent

from broken ones. Some 71

There is, though, an orderly

atmosphere among the 380 pu-

This emphasis on "added

value" has also lifted teach-

ers' moral, says Mr Lippitt,

who believes results will im-

prove further, although it

may take the next two or

and behavioural.

BRASS music echoed tri-

arched corridors of the Liverpool Blue Coat School yesterday as it celebrated a claim at the top of the school league tables for the fourth successive year, writes Martyn Halsall.
"We are pleased but not
hysterical," said John

Speller, headmaster for the last 7% years. "I think the boys and girls quite like to be associated with a suc-cessful school but this is not something out of the blue." ething that's come Historically the school,

founded as an orphanage by an Anglican priest and a philanthropic merchant in 1718 — and which started to take boarders to cure "habits of idleness" — had much to be modest about. Its curriculum has developed substantially beyond the original "teaching poor university," she said.

stream for academic results, said Mr Speller.

It moved from the city centre to its home in Liverpool suburbia in 1908, and its character will change again next year as it introduces an entry exam and becomes grant maintained, though not fee-paying.

Entry at 11 produces four times the applicants the 900 punil school can accommodate, and up to 110 apply for the 30 additional places in the sixth form, which now includes girls.

Mr Speller is proud to lead a school commended by government inspectors for both its scholarship and the cultural and personal development of its pupils, most of whom go to university. Indeed, the Blue Coat is rated "one of the 30 or so outstandingly successful schools in the country" by Ofsted inspectors, he said.

Leura Braven, a 16-year-old maths, physics and Spanish student said she was thrilled at her school's success. "Teachers push you harder than at other schools

tion of the candelabra when

catalogue. She contacted

French police who alerted

Scotland Yard and the items

were withdrawn. The auc-

tioneers returned them to Mr

Alan and they have since remained in his Mayfair

News in brief

Financial troubles hit NHS trusts

ALMOST one in three NHS trusts is reporting a worsening of its financial position since April, according to a survey released today. Trusts are closing hospital beds, cutting staff and making patients wait longer for treatment, the survey says. Four trusts say their finances have deteriorated by more than £1

The survey was carried out by the Healthcare Financial Management Association, which represents NHS finance offi-Management Association, which represents NAS HRANCE Offi-cers, and covered 130 trusts. Thirty-one per cent sald their position had deteriorated since April. The association also surveyed some 30 health authorities, which pay trusts to pro-vide health care, and more than half said their position had worsened — one in four reporting a deterioration of more than to million.

The Government is expected next week to announce extra funding for the NHS in 1997/98. Authorities and trusts are being told they will have to manage until then with what they have although a blind eye may be turned to deficits and unpaid bills in the meantime. — David Brindle

Judge turns witness

JUDGE Timothy Milligan turned witness to send a petty thief and his friend to jall after he saw them passing drugs in the dock at Portsmouth crown court. He had spotted Mark Bryson passing a packet of cannabis wrapped in a piece of clingfilm to Michael Redding.

Redding.

The judge was the principal witness at Chichester crown court yesterday when Bryson and Redding appeared on cannabis charges. Bryson was jailed for 15 months for supplying drugs and his co-defendant was jailed for a month for possession. Judge Milligan told the court he had seen Bryson pass something to his fellow defendant in the dock during the case, just as he was being released on hell.

"It was a very quick movement in the passing of the package but I was able to see it very clearly and ordered a search straight away," the judge said.

Boat had no lifejackets

AN EXETER inquest jury yesterday listed a string of safety faults as it returned a verdict of accidental death on two anglers who died when their Devon-based lishing boat sprung a leak and sank. The 24ft converted assault craft Blue Fin had no lifejackets or liferaft, and just one lifebelt for the five crew.

The Teignmouth-based boat sank in May 1995 with the loss of John Vince, 24, a single man from Teignmouth, and father of three Mark Stainer, 36, from Shaldon. Their friends Trevor Hall. 29, David Bayliss, 30, and Jeremy Jones, 48, swam ashore.

Absent fathers fail to pay

BARELY one in five absent fathers traced by the Child Support Agency is paying the full maintenance ordered, latest figures show, Only 2 per cent were paying in full in August, down from 25 per cent in May.

The drop in full compliance will disappoint ministers as the rate had been rising. However, the proportion of traced absent fathers paying nothing has stayed stable at 41 per cent, with the

remaining 38 per cent paying up in part.

The CSA is now handling 512,000 cases in which a final or interim maintenance assessment has been made.

David

Footballer to stand trial

GLASGOW Rangers footballer Charlie Miller and Jimmy "Five Bellies" Gardner, friend and former minder of Paul Gascoigne, are to stand trial on December 2 after an alleged assault at a village pub, a court ruled yesterday. Neither was present for a procedural hearing at Paisley sheriff court, near Glasgow, when

the trial date was set.
Miller, 20, of Glasgow, and Gordner, 31, of Dunston, Gateshead, and a third man not present yesterday. Steven McDermott, 31, from Gateshead, are accused with others unknown of assaulting a man in the Fox and Hounds, Houston, Renfrewshire, on March 17. They are further accused of shouting, swearing and committing a breach of the peace.

Car repair cost threat

CAR repair costs could double if a proposed European directive is adopted, the RAC warned yesterday. It said motor ists and breakdown organisations would be unable to make repairs under the car bonnet if the directive gets the go ahead.

The Brussels proposals would limit access to on-board diagnostics—the in-car computers which control engine performance and other important vehicle systems.

According to the RAC, such a move would mean its patrolmen would have no alternative but to true cars to a dealership where

would have no alternative but to tow cars to a dealership where the correct access codes are held

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Love-sick Para killed wife, friend and himself | Battle over 'stolen' French candlesticks

and her best friend before committing suicide after his marriage broke down, an inhe shared with Alexia, aged 29, until a month before the

Lance Corporal Darren killings in August and fallia, aged 27, threw himself stabbed both women in the Mallia, aged 27, threw himself from a multi-storey car park after stabbing his wife Alexia and her friend Alison Williams. Shortly before he died Mallia said he could not bear to live without Alexia and

planned to kill her and himself. But the two friends he told did not take him seriously. He felt he was being alien-ated from his wife because of her friendship with Miss Willlams, aged 31.

On the night of the killings,

SOLDIER killed his wife | shire - had drunk with | could not live if he could not friends in a club. He then have her.

"That infatuation went beyond anything the majority of us will recognise or understand to the extent of physical pain. It had become allconsuming."
Three letters were found

among Mallia's possessions at the barracks where he lived after splitting up with his The jury at the inquest in Alton, Hampshire, returned wife. In one, to his mother, he said: "There is no way I can see Alexia with another man. I have decided if I can't have her no one else will." Another, to an army warrant of-ficer, said: "My love for my wife has turned into an

On the night of the killings, blan lovers, told the jury:

Mallia — a soldier for 10
Years. Who was in the 2nd
Battation the Parachute Regiment at Aldershot, Hamp
Many district for the jury:

"Darren was infatuated with
his wife. [He] thought Alison
was alternating him from
Alexia. Alexia had to die. She
"Darren was infatuated with
his wife. [He] thought Alison
was alternating him from
mean anything in the world."

The pain I am in is
for her great great grandfather. Emile Martin, in 1846
by the sculptor Antoine-Louis

PAIR of 19th century | Barye — was "rock solid". | to the intended May 1994 aug French candelsticks | Mrs de Preval, the 80-year-old | tion of the candelabra when

stolen in a chateau burglary in 1986 turned up for sale at Sotheby's eight years later, a High Court judge heard today. The lady of the chateau, Ni-

cole de Preval, blocked the sale with the help of the French police and Scotland Yard. But when she demanded the return of what she claims are her £60,000 family heirlooms, the dealer who put them up for auction said they were not hers and refused to hand them over.

Her counsel, Michael Gett-leson, told Mrs Justice Arden

widow of a French viscount. who lives in Paris, is suing antique dealer Adrian Alan for "delivery up" of the candelabra or £60,000, plus interest and damages for alleged wrongful conversion.

Mr Alan, based in Brighton and with premises in Mayfair, London, contends he bought the pieces in good faith from the Cheriff Gallery in New York for about £6,000 and they are not the items stolen from Mrs de Preval. Mr Gettleson said the candelabra and many other valuables were stolen from the chateau, near Sagonne in the

marble centrepiece of the

Mrs de Preval was alerted

triptych was left behind.

gallery. Mr Gettleson said the French police contacted the New York dealers from whom Mr Alan claimed to have bought the candelabra in 1992. The dealers replied that they did not keep files dating back that far and had no memory of dealing with items of that description. district of Cher. The heavy

The hearing was adjourned until tomorrow when the candelabra are expected to be brought to court.

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War files reveal horror of island's SS camp

Madeleine Bunting on brutal treatment meted out to slave labourers on Alderney

on a camp gate, hung naked while SS guards threw buckets of cold water over them and beaten to death, files on the treatment eastern European slave workers in Britain's only second world war concentration camps

revealed yesterday. The 11 files, released at the Public Record Office, Kew, following their return from the German authorities investigating war crimes, fill in some of the missing history of Alderney's four slave labour camps. About half the Rus-

LDERNEY prison-ers were crucified on building German fortifica-on a camp gate, tions on the island died, according to British military in-telligence reports.

A former slave labourer subsequently transferred to France told British authorities in 1944: "Too undernourished and exhausted to work efficiently, these men were mercilessly beaten by the German guards and fre-quently, when they were too weak to stand up, they were clubbed to death or finished off with a knife. Uness and disease became rampant."
The forced labourers

Ukraine - were fed nothing | he was living in a Hamburg |

but a watery cabbage soup and a tiny ration of bread. In June 1943 a German medical commission found that only half of a detachment of 1,600 forced labourers were still alive and of them 450 had gone to hospital.

The files are the last remaining official documents which were to have been held which were to have been held back until 2020. They were ex-amined by the German au-thorities for evidence against 90-year-old Kurt Klebeck, the deputy SS commandant in charge of the Sylt camp on Al-derney following revelations in the Chardien in 1992 that in the Guardian in 1992 that

suburb.
The documents reveal bow

much detail the British au-thorities had about atrocities on Alderney, although no German has ever been prose-cuted for war crimes on the island. Several German officers

responsible were held in a prisoner-of-war camp in London until being released without trial to go back to Germany in the late 1940s.

The files do not give a final death toll. Only 337 bodies were found buried but camp were found buried but camp survivors put the total of

But the files corroborate Ukranian and Russian survivors' descriptions of atrocvors nescriptions of acroc-tities. According to one Ger-man prisoner of war, Werner Höhne, a ship was loaded with 300 Russians and then

A policeman attends on German officers during the occupation of the Channel Islands, and right, Kurt Klebeck, SS deputy commandant of the Alderney camp, at home in Hamburg

kept in Alderney harbour for three days in January 1943. "In its hold these people were crowded together like herring without straw, beds or biankets. They were terribly ema-ciated. Food was a waterey

soup once a day.
"When opening the trap
door a terrible stench met us. On the return journey on each occasion we had to take back frightfully emaciated

corpses of Russians." Finally, drunk at night all the prison-a storm wrecked the ship. ers were dragged out of doors, "Many Russians locked up in paraded and beaten up with the hold lost their lives." British military intelli-

gence was told of a whip made of a "rubber rod covered with a steel spiral, with a plastic coating over it and covered again in a leather sock". Arbitrary beatings and shootings of slave labourers were commonplace. Desperate for food, they were reduced to stealing pigswill and acrabbling with their bare hands for the buried in-

testines outside "When the guards got listed.

pick shafts, Many Russians died under the blows," Although most of the is-landers had been evacuated before the Germans arrived a significant number of Guernsignificant number of Guern-seymen and Jerseymen, en-ticed by the offer of higher rations, went to work on Al-derney. The files reveal for

Twenty-two Guernseymen are listed as working for the Germans as lorry drivers, plasterers and labourers.

venereal disease, are also

The files enigmatically refer to an allegation that two Englishmen were killed and buried by the Germans. There have been no previous reports of Englishmen dying in the Alderney camps.

Former slave labourers also revealed to British military Intelligence the atrocities they witnessed in Belarus and Estonia before they were transported to the Channel Islands; they had seen hun-dreds of Jews rounded up and

COLLABORATORS: 'Some women act disgracefully. One of them rejoices in giving a Nazi salute when she passes a German'

HK names of alleged collaborators, informers and women who had chilling the British military indren by German soldiers –

istry of Defence, in contrast to previous documents in which names were blacked One woman is described

as a "notorious informer" against loyal British subects. She was stated to have frequently received the reward of £100 for information. Another woman is "a jerrybag and a nym-phomaniac." One 20-year-old in 1944 is said to have

telligence reports, based on interrogation of islanders some of whom may still be alive — are revealed in the papers released yesterday, writes Madeleine Bunting.

Nineteen women and 20 men are named in the documents released by the Miniments released whom may still be interrogation of islanders the papers released yesterday, writes Madeleine Bunting.

ont for fear of causing diffi-culty for islanders or their British soldiers. In one descendants. mothers are married to parties and is considered to be a collaborator". Case, a woman with three On Jersey, members of children by her serving the Supreme Council were British husband has had accused of using their post-tion to secure extra sup-Informants to British in-telligence said that young men were planning to tar and feather "troop carri-ers" after the war.

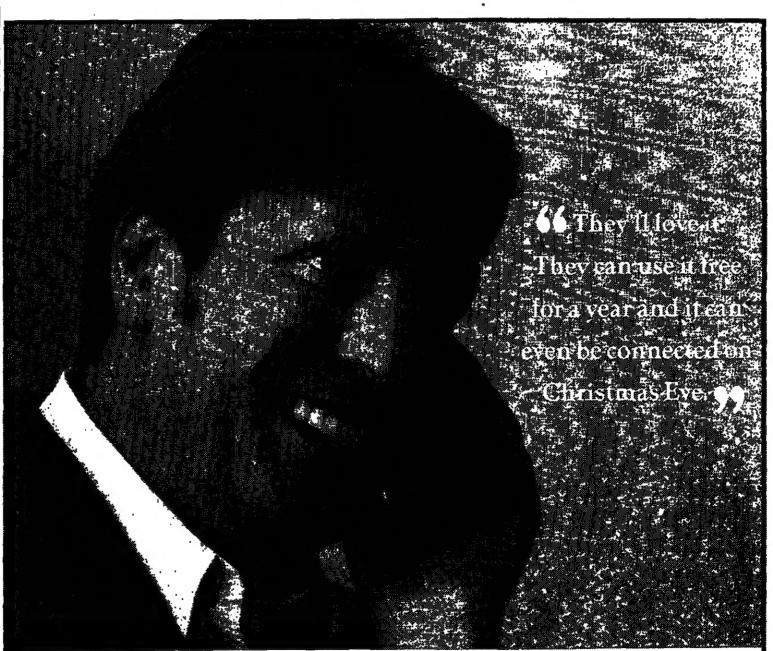
on Jersey of German fathers and many more are on the way. Abortions have been innumerable at a rate of £5.5s (£5.25) for a German father and £3.3s (£3.30) for a local man."

Equally controversial will be the informants' condemnation of officials in the island governments.
The head of Guernsey's
government, John Leale,
who was knighted after the war, is described as "gener-ally thought to be an evil is considered pro-German ... he lives well on far above the ordinary rations."

Another key member of "There are many illegiti-mate children born of Ger-man fathers. Many of the dermans on shooting

tion to secure extra sup-plies of scarce food and fuel. Black marketeering was alleged to be rampant among officials. The breakdown of pre-

is "a jerrybag and a nymphomaniac." One 20-year-old in 1944 is said to have informed against her father and had a child by a German. Another "rejoices in giving the Nazi salute or salute



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P B O P D B S

China tackles moral rot with a smile

Andrew Higgins in Beljing

I SULI, bus conductor and rising star of China's revived cult of the model worker, is far too busy these days being a celebrity to turn

up for work. On the number 21 bus that was her springboard to stardom, rare is the passenger who cannot tell of the exploits of China's most diligent transport worker; how she rises be-fore dawn, smiles all day and studies into the night.
But rarer still is the passer

ger who has seen her in the On a bone-shaking journey last week across Beijing only

one passenger could claim to have witnessed the model worker at work. "I saw her once but that was months ago. It was before she became famous

Ms Li, aged 35 and mother to the requisite single child. has become chief cheerleader in a national campaign for rectitude and political obedi-ence, an ill-defined pot-pourri of virtues known in Communist Party jargon as spiritual civilisation. "At a time of increasing

selfishness and indifference self sha created a fertile pas-ture of warmth and human feeling." said the Beijing Youth Daily, which calls Ms Li the "messenger of love". Such a message might have

worked in the 1950s but has little relevance today. An irreverent rock guitarist recently featured the model

For the party, the only good model worker is a dead one

bus conductor in a rendition of Beautiful Girl — and was hanned from performing for three years. He was accused of making "unsayoury gestures" on top of a piano.
Across Beijing, citizens are
being bombarded with the slo-

meanwhile, is too busy preaching to bother much with practice.

"I take this bus every day and she has never sold me a ticket," said an elderly passenger on her route. "But I watch her on television all the time. She smiles a lot and has a very nice bus. Not like

The gap between reality and fantasy is a recurring fea-ture of China's spasmodic campaigns to promote model workers — a gap that may ex-plain why the party usually prefers its heroes dead or fic-tional. The most famous of the genre is Lei Feng, a 1960s paragon of the People's Liber-

gan "study Li Sull, achieve ation Army who declared first class service". Ms Li, himself a "rustless screw of himself a "rustless screw of the revolution" and then perished when a telephone pole fell on his head.

"As far as the party is concerned, the only good model worker is a dead model worker. Only a corpse is en-tirely safe." said Geremie Barme, a scholar of contem-porary Chinese culture at the Australian National University. 'Living models have al-ways been problematic. So long as someone is still alive they can always say or do the wrong thing."

To protect Ms Li from such perils, the Beijing Municipal Communist Party acts as her agent and chaperone. Its propaganda department fixes her

views and arranges her road-shows and speaking tours. Ms Li now has only one real

Bureaucrats treat their own people like cretins'

rival at the summit of Chinese political correctness, a plodding model plumber from

Shanghai called Xu Hu. "She has to go to many meetings and does not have much time for ordinary work," explained Li Jian, bus

photo opportunities and inter-views and arranges her road-of a permanent shrine to the ated by Deng Kiaoping's circle conductor at Beijing's gargan. tuan railway station, starting

point for the number 21. A hall has been set aside to house photographs and mementoes marking the mile-stones in Ms Li's excruciatingly mundane life. The exhibition kicks off with a picture of her induction into the Communist Party in 1988.

the Communist Party in 1986, taking an oath of loyalty, fist clenched before a red flag.
Perpetually smiling and rejentlessly good natured, Ms Li has joined an exclusive pantheon of heroes. The context of national model worth. cept of national model workers was first developed in the 1950s but is now being dusted 1950s but is now being dusted take flight into the fantasies off by President Jiang Zemin of the past

Most Chinese would appland any serious attempt to stop the country's moral rot. Model workers, though, in spire more despair than hope. "Chingse bureaucrats

speak to the country in a vernacular that has virtually nothing to do with the reality of life in modern China," said Air Barne. "They front their own people like cretins. Many are deeply concerned about the terrible corruption and moral collapse. But the party has neither the mechanisms nor even the rhetoric to deal with reality. All it can do is

Summit time blues are back for Manila's poor

Keith Richburg in Manila

MET.DA Marcos, widow of former president Ferdinand Marcos, used to call it "beautification". In practice, it meant that whenever the Philippines hosted an international event the capital got a fresh coat of paint and the "eyesores" thousands of squatter families living in shacks — were forcibly removed.

The Marcos dictatorship ended more than a decade ago but, as the city spruces itself up to host the six-day summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (Apec) forum which opens today, it seems some things have not changed.

When Apec delegates arrive, they will see white-washed walls, freshly painted pavements and 2,000 new streetlights. They will not see hundreds of squatter shacks that have been buildozed. The clean-up has left at

least 10,000 people homeless, according to a squatters' rights group, the Anti-Demo-lition Coalition. Other shacks have been concealed behind a huge,

white, plywood wall. Government officials have declared that many of the squatters were living in a 'danger zone", too close to the river and in unsanitary conditions, - The Washing-



A man in a demon mask protests in front of US embassy in Manila yesterday about the Apec summit

Killing deepens **Cambodian rift**

Nick Cumming-Bruce in Bangkok

ONG-TROUBLED relations between Cambo dia's joint prime minis ters. Prince Ranariddh and Hun Sen, appeared to be close to snapping yesterday after gunmen shot dead Mr Hun Sen's brother-in-law. The second prime minister's aides said it was politically

Two gunmen waiting on a motorcycle fired several times into the chest of Colonel Kov Samuth, a senior interior ministry official, as he left a Phnom Penh restaurant after breakfasting. The gunmen es caped. Samuth reportedly died soon after reaching hospital.

This is a warning to Hun Sen," his spokesman Om Yen-tieng said. "This is not the first time that Hun Sen's family has been targeted." His father-in-law was murdered

Speaking at his heavily guarded residence, Mr Hun en claimed that the shooting was part of a conspiracy by political rivals, and added: "I have the ability to order the army to fight in a few hours or in a few days if it is neces-sary to protect the lives of the

Prince Ranariddh con-

fair, but tension in Phnom Penh increased sharply.
"People are scared," a Western analyst in the city

"The war of words between the leaders is increasing. The atmosphere is so volatile and the second prime minister is so irrational that anything could happen."
The shooting highlights a

fight for political advantage, centred in recent months on efforts to win defectors from the Khmer Rouge, before the general election in 1998. Mr Hun Sen suggested that the murder was a reaction to a weekend press conference at which be aired allegations

by, he said, former undercover Khmer Rouge agents that the outspoken opposition leader Sam Rainsy was part of a Khmer Rouge front and that Prince Ranarlddh's party Funcinpec had conspired to cover this up. Mr Hun Sen seems to be

worried that Prince Ranariddh is trying to create a broad opposition front by resurrecting, with defectors, Funcinpec's pre 1990 alliance with the Khmer Rouge. Further confict is likely

over the plans of Prince Norodom Sirivudh, a former Funcinpec leader, to return to Cambodia, less than a year after going into exile to avoid demned the killing and a prison sentence for plotting sought to play down the after to assassinate Mr Hun Sen.

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Confused and afraid: being German today

German Question

tal worriers, the Germans do not need to be prodded into being fretful. Take Karin, having breakfast at Frankfurt airport, impatient to get off to Miami. Dressed head to ankle in denim, the 36-year-old sound engineer seems the very model of modern German womanhood — successful, independent, prosperous.

e has a problem. It is not that she wants to flee her country and co-nationals — that is normal for a people that top the league of global No, it is more than that. Karin does not want to be

She insists on speaking English and admits with an unGerman directness that she would rather be an American or a Briton, France, too. is infinitely preferable to Germany. Karin is not exactly typical in wanting to deny her national identity. But nor is she exceptional.

It is hard being German. even for younger generations not stigmatised by the war years. This has been shown again this year by the intense and obsessive debate that erupted around Hitler's Willing Executioners, the bestselling book by American Daniel Goldhagen which claimed that ordinary Germans needed little encouragement

to perpetrate the Holocaust. Nobody likes Germans, do they." says Karin. Magazines and books regularly seek to analyse "why does everyone fear us, hate us, why are we so unpopular".

first time since the war. rst time since the war.
But Germans also seem the West.



Fretful for the future, a homeless German shares his anget

tion on everything from the military to beef. In a book on the "German condition", pub-lished this month, the acerbic commentator, Henryk Broder, writes that "dispatching a few [military] technicians and medics to a crisis area [Bosnia] triggered hysterical reactions as if one was trying to block a company of Waffen-SS going to Poland".

Beef consumption has fallen more than anywhere else in Europe, including Britain, because of the BSE Ulrich Beck, a Munich soci-

ologist and author of The Risk Society, ascribes such reactions to a reluctance to listen to experts, to heed technical advice, and to prefer moral, emotional, and political re-sponses to complex questions. The endemic insecurity and lack of confidence is partly due to the chronic absence of

continuity in handing down values. Virtually every gen-eration this century has lived under a different system — Empire, the chaotic Weimar Republic, Nazism, post-war partitioned democracy and The burden of history and communism, and now a the pain of feeling unloved is being augmented by a rash of dren have constantly had to diffuse fears and insecurities reject the values of their connected with the possibility of economic decline for the Edgar Piel, of the Allensbach

generation gap, he said, showed an average of 15 per cent of those aged under 30 rejected their parents' values. In western Germany the figure was 30 per cent.

This generation gap seems to persist into the Nineties, with the rebellion of the so-called class of '89 against the 1968 generation being a staple dinner-table subject. Carl Gross, a Berlin psy-

chologist and management consultant treating the fears and phobias of business leaders, says German executives, particularly the older generation, are more averse to risktaking, more coercive, more anxious, and more perfection-ist than their Anglo-Saxon

"Before the Germans can take a decision, they need to check everything, twice, thrice, four times," he says. "If we have a mixed team of say German and American managers, I often have to say to the Germans, Look, this is not how we do things nowadays, we're living in a democracy."
If anything, the anxieties

are on the rise and there is plenty to worry about — job insecurity in a new era of mass unemployment, worries about pensions and health care in a rapidly ageing population, the travails of unification and the alienation be-

of falling is determining the direction of a Germany burdened by its past and fearful of its future An international poll on the | tween East and West. Profe

ian Traynor in

Bonn reports, in

the third of his

series, on how

an endemic fear

sor Beck, of Munich, as a member of the government's Commission for Questions of the Future, wrestles with the

potential social and psychological impact of the changes needed in Germany.

"The big question for the years ahead is how stable is Germany's democratic self-applications in a partial of parameters and applications of the provided of the potential self-applications in a partial of parameters." confidence in a period of nonautomatic prosperity," he says. "We've probably says. "We've probably reached the limits of our affluence model."

The problem, says Profes sor Beck, lies within the fact that their democracy was not earned "but given to us by the Allies and it was and is based on an ever-growing cake. But how will we fare in an age of growing inequality, jobs inse-curity, disappearing consen-sus, and worsening ecological crisis, all of these

overlapping?"
In short, is Germany a fairweather democracy, or robust enough to cope with harder times? Can it make the transition from consent to dissent from conformism to individualism, from being a consensus to a conflict society? "This is the great test," he says. "We should seize all this

not as a risk and a threat, but as a challenge and an opportunity.'

Tomorrow: Germany's hard-

Crash families face cash wait

Suzanne Goldenberg in New Delhi

Stung by accusations that it has cold-shouldered the families of those killed when a Kazakh plane collided with one of its jumbo jets last week near New Delhi, says it is stepping up efforts

to compensate relatives for the loss of their breadwinners. Most of the 349 people who died in the mid-air collision between the Kazakh Air cargo plane and the Saudi Boeing 747 in northern India were migrant Indian labourers

After the indignity of waiting for Indian officials to release charred bodies and belongings, and paying off "coffin touts" and other ex-ploiters, the families now face large debts. Agents typically charge fees of 50,000 to 60,000

relatively well-paid job in says it has been hampered in Arab countries. Its efforts to contact the fam-Indian newspapers have told stories of relatives who arrived at the crash site after a three-day bus journey from

remote areas to be told to search the wreckage for themselves.

Lalit Bhasin, the lawyer for Saudi Airlines, said advertisements would appear today in English, Hindi and Urdu newspapers telling the families how to apply for compensation. But the process is bound to be complicated.

Mr Bhasin admitted that

Mr Bhasin admitted that some families may have to wait months for their pay-out - especially where they lack the documents to prove their relationship — and that not all families would be entitled to the maximum £12,000. "It

depends on the dependency of the claimant on the deceased and it is also based on earning potential," he said. To date only 130 claims have rupees (around £1,000) for a | been filed. The Saudi airline | prevailing in Asia.

ilies because many of the dead came from remote areas of india and gave agents' addresses as their own. The funerals of 58 more un-

ren fields where the plane came down. The last remains were removed from the wreckage on Monday.
While the exact cause of last Tuesday's crash could

take months to determine, it is becoming clear that more sophisticated air traffic con-trol systems at Delhi's Indira prevented the disaster

Within hours of the collision, the Indian air traffic controllers' union and officials were blaming the Kazakh pilot, saying his English adjust instruments calibrated in metric to measurements

like problems, what does it come down to: air traffic conidentified victims were held yesterday at Charkhi Dadri, the nearest town to the bartrol," said Narendra Gupta, a former air vice-marshall. Although Indian civil avia tion officials released transcripts showing the Saudi pilot was directed to fly 1,000

feet below the approaching Kazakh aircraft, there was no indication he was told to steer indication he was told to steer
a different course. "Had there
been a separation of even 10
metres horizontally, nothing
would have had a fright, and
that's all," Mr Gupta said.
Delhi's radar system is

more than 20 years old. A sophisticated new American system, which would have en-abled the control tower to detect the altitude of both planes, has been sitting un-used for six months because of installation problems.

Flying in Africa 'inherently risky'

Keith Harper Transport Editor

IRLINE pilots warned yesterday that all flights in Africa were "inherently at risk". Travellers should know their flights were not continuonsly safeguarded and regulated, they said.
The International Feder-

ation of Air Line Pilots' Associations issued unprec-edented guidelines to its 100,000 members stressing that the situation in the African region had become untenable. It said that a

Peter Quaintmere, said that when Ifalpa heard of the Indian mid-air collision last week it thought the accident had occurred in Africa. Since August last year brought a series of serious official sources had incidents with safety

Mr Quaintmere said Africa was not alone in having low standards. Ifalpa was investigating reports of poor safety in South and Central America and the

ecorded 57 incidents, in-

cluding air misses, over

air-traffic infrastructure is unsafe. In the past two years a threefold increase in traffic between Europe and South Africa has

Its statement, issued after an emergency meeting in Nassau, said: "A demand for more traffic in Africa increases the daily risk of an tragic accident happening.
"Giving the flying public | tween air traffic units.

mid-air collision had been avoided only "by the most its findings soon.

Its technical director, 75 per cent of the African their flight is continuously regulated and safeguarde could not be further from the truth."

Ifalpa says that African states do not comply with international standards, radar coverage and air traffic control are inadequate. with collision-avoidance sytems.

It calls for urgent action to improve flight safety and wants swift improvement in communications be-

Judges dismiss Bhutto plea

challenging her dismissal as prime minister, writes Su-

zunne Goldenberg.
Judges dismissed her plea
as scandalous, irrelevant and
frivolous. Lawyers will meet Ms Bhutto today to discuss its

Ms Bhutto today to discuss its resubmission.

Ms Bhutto was sacked a should not suffer for Ms Bhuttowas should not suffer fortnight ago by the president | to's government's misdee

AKISTAN'S supreme amid accusations of corrup-Court yesterday threw out tion, financial incompetence Benazir Bhutto's petition and human rights violations. She suffered another setback yesterday with the arrest of Naheed Khan, her political secretary.

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Parliament takes on president in Belarus

Minsk o Crisis comes to head

nathan Steele in Minsk

HE long-simmering struggle in Belarus be-tween President Alexander Lukashenko and a parliament united against him reached boiling-point last night as moves to impeach the chief executive got under way. Mr Lukashenko is seeking a mandate for a vast exten-

a manuace for a vasc exen-sion of his powers in a refer-endum on Sunday. But the prime minister, Mikhail Chi-gir, resigned in protest at the president's authoritarian

In an extraordinary late-night broadcast, Mr Luka-shenko called Mr Chigir a traitor. And he freely admit-ted that the KGB (as it is still called) had toroned the called) had tapped the phones of parliamentary leaders.

"The security services told me [Sergei] Kalyakin and [Se-myon] Sharetsky had talked on the phone about petrol and other inflammable material. For God's sake, perhaps they want to have another Reich-stag," he told viewers in a reference to Adolf Hitler's action in having the German parlia-ment building burned down. Mr Sharetsky heads the Agrarians, the largest faction,

and is chairman of parliament. Mr Kalyakin heads the Com-munists, the second largest. The impeachment process was begun when members of

parliament handed the constitutional court a petition, signed by 80 of their number, calling for Mr Lukashenko's Several hundred people gathered in Independence

Square outside the parlia-ment building yesterday as-members went into energency session to discuss the crists. But as reports spread that the president was calling workers from state-owned factories to converge on the building to denounce them, parliamentary leaders called for a compromise.

The president has sent emissaries to the factories to summon people here. It is the final provocation to try to bring about clashes in the street," Gennady Karpenko, the deputy chairman told the

Chris McGreal in Kigali and John Palmer in Ostend

Zaire grew more remote yes-terday when the United States

announced that it would not

send combat troops to the

The defence secretary, William Perry, said fewer than 1,000 logistical personnel

would be sent because of the very positive development"

refugees returning to Rwanda. Threats from Rwanda and

splits among European countries added to doubts over the proposed foreign force, though aid agencies in-sisted that hundreds of thou-

sands of people were still trapped by fighting.

trapped by fighting.

As plans to deploy troops were put on hold, Britain said it would send an RAF photo-reconnaissance jet today to assess the refugee crisis.

The Rwandans said they would refuse to allow a multi-reconnaissance that they would refuse they are they would refuse they would refu

region as planned.



Belarussians opposed to President Lukashenko gather outside parliament yesterday in Minsk as members fight to prevent a referendum which could grant him near-dictatorial powers

one of the factions have called for the president to withdraw his draft constitution in advance of the referendum on condition that they drop their own version which would abolish the executive

presidency. Despite of his television

Large torce for Zaire

HE prospect of significant foreign military intervention in eastern dian-led force was no longer necessary. It was to have berday when the United States

national force to cross their soil into Zaire, maintaining that all the refugees such a force was meant to help have

unlikely as West splits

The foreign minister, Anas-tase Gasana, said Rwanda had asked the UN secretary-

general, Boutros Boutros-

ridors through rebel-held ter-ritory in eastern Zaire. "The international force's

returned so the mission is no longer necessary," he said. Without access to Rwandan

airports and roads, a multina-tional force would have to go

began backtracking on the need for intervention after the mass return from camps

Yesterday governments of the Western European Union offered to co-ordinate interna-

tional aid operations in Zaire, but were divided on the issue of a large peacekeeping force.

in Goma started on Friday.

"The international force's sion should go ahead because whole mission is null and void. The refugees have crossed into Rwanda, a simi-

sides withdrawing their constitutional drafts.

ment on his meeting with Mr Tikhniya was: "If he is sincere, then there is a chance of emerging from this crisis peacefully." But a senior politi-

Ministers, warned yesterday

France is also continuing to insist a multinational mis-

lar number remains unac-counted for in the areas of Bu-

kavu, Uvira and Goma, according to the UN.

500,000 repatriated is the full caseload, or even the bulk of

it, is wrong. There are still hundreds of thousands of

refugees outside the country

spread out over a large area."
Mr Gasana, said Rwanda

was prepared to accept some foreign troops on its soil pro-

vided their mission focused on the refugees who had returned home, with projects such as house building.

He and the leaders of all but | court, who has publicly can- | at the "illegal nature" of the | to be a new broom against the ne of the factions have called | vassed the option of both | referendum. But cancelling it | old Soviet and new postwould be a big climb-down for the president. His deputy chief of staff, Vladimir Zametalin, insisted yesterday that

the poll would go ahead.

Mr Lukashenko was a collective farm chairman until he unexpectedly won the presidency in June 1994 with attack on Mr Sharetsky, the cal source was reported as say presidency in June 1994 with ing the president had started 84 per cent of the vote after meet him. He also summoned Valery Tikhinya, the chief justice of the constitutional and Italy protested yesterday ruption committee. Claiming

Soviet elites, he has man to retain much of his popular support by ruthless use of the

 He has prevented parliament's draft constitution being published and last week shut the central election commission, leaving the referendum to be run by his officials. The president's constitution would make impeachment al-

Israel arrests border police shown beating Palestinians

Two Israeli border police-men were arrested yester-day, a day after Israel Tv broadcast an amateur video were in fact widespread, in-Dick Spring, the current president of the EU Council of of them beating, kicking and humiliating six Palestinian labourers who were trying to of a "humanitarian crisis of colossal proportions" and in-sisted that the dispatch of a peacekeeping force must not be questioned.

enter Israel illegally. The justice ministry said it was investigating another in-cident in which three border policemen were suspected of beating eight Palestinians.

Police commanders expressed outrage at the two of-icers' "reprehensible" behav-

entry.
The public security minister, Avigdor Kahalani, said beatings were "most unusual", but added that the border police were under a lot of pressure because of their daily contacts with the Palestinians in a tense situation. "This makes them tougher in their behaviour." - AP.

tended to discourage illegal

airports and roads, a multinational force would have to go directly into eastern Zaire where Rwandan-backed rebels are equally unsympathetic to foreign intervention. Britain, the US and Canada began backtracking on the need for intervention after the mess return from camps. Find extends human family?

AJAWBONE found in Bithiopia is the most convincing and earliest dated fossil of the genus to which humans belong, extending the age of the human family line by about 400,000 years, the New

York Times has reported.
The discovery was announced by an international team of scientists. the paper said yesterday.

Found with a scattering of crude stone tools in fossil sediments in the Hadar

TerreBlanche denies attack

THE South African white extremist leader Eugene TerreBlanche pleaded not guilty yesterday to the at-tempted murder of a black man he employed as a secu-

rity guard. The court in Potchefstroom was told that Mr Terre-blanche, aged 52, knocked down Paul Motshadi and beat him repeatedly on the neck, shoulders and arms with a club or pipe.

The incident occured on March 25 in Ventersdorp, the

farming town where Mr Terre Blanche's Afrikaner Resis

its headquarters.

The witness, Gabriel Kgosimang, who also once worked for Mr TerreBlanche as a security guard, said he ran away because Mr TerreBlanche threatened to kill him.

The AWB, which opposed transition to majority rule, wants a whites-only territory free of control by blacks.—AP.

Zambian poll backs Chiluba

AMBIA'S early election results yesterday showed President Frederick Chiluba after he barred his only seri-

After a third of ballots had

the new government.

Several countries have froleclared in the 150-seat leclared in the 150-s

Belgian minister to face hearing for 'buying child sex'

ELGIUM'S deputy parliamentary com-mission into allegations that he procured 13-year-old boys for sex, the leaders of the government and opposition par-ties decided yesterday.

The 11-person commission will begin work today and could report back to parliament tomorrow on whether the evidence is strong enough to consider a vote on the lifting of Mr Di Rupo's immunity

from prosecution.
The lifting of immunity would clear the way for criminal proceedings in Belgium's supreme court.
Meanwhile, the Wallonian

(French-speaking) regional parliament has voted for a separate commission to investigate similar allegations against one of its ministers, Jean-Pierre Grafe.

Yesterday Mr Di Rupo wel-comed the setting up of the commission, although conser-

ter, is the highest-ranking Socialist in Jean-Luc Dement, which is likely to be further destabilised by the

Belgium has been shocked by a series of child sex scan-dals. A paedophile gang in the southern city of Charleroi was discovered in August. The gang, allegedly led by Marc Dutroux, specialised in the abduction, sexual abuse and murder of young girls.
Public anger has been

directed mainly against the police, magistrates and politicians, and culminated last month in a protest march by more than 300,000 people.

Although the allegations against Mr Di Rupo and Mr Grafe are unrelated to the Duroux case they chime with

troux case, they chime with rumours of high-level corruption and cover-ups.

The prime minister and his

The prime minister and his government are maintaining an icy silence over the Di Rupo affair, but ministers had made clear that no stone would be left unturned in the wide-ranging paedophile investigation launched in the wake of the Dutroux case.

Mr Di Rupo became embroiled in the scandal after his name, and those of other his name, and those of other politicians, police officers and

resignation.

Even his supporters appeared doubtful of his chances of survival in the government. Mr Di Rupo, who is also the economics and telecommunication.

been involved in paedophilia.
What is happening to me now really seems like political scheming." Allegations against Mr Di Rupo, aged 45, a former uni-versity chemistry don from the southern Belgian city of

Mons, first circulated in the Flemish language press at the weekend. A former chauffeur claimed that he had driven the minister to the Brussels red-light district in his offi-cial car, cruising for boys. Mr Di Ruppo said in a state-ment that his private life had

not harmed anyone and that he had had relationships only with responsible and consent

ing persons.

The age of consent in Belgium is 16 for both homosexuals and heterosexuals. Sex with children below that age is punishable by imprison-ment of up to 10 years, even if the act is deemed as

The local press quoted yes-terday patrons of Le CanCan, a gay bar, and of a nearby nightclub, Le Garage, who said that the deputy prime minister was a regular visi-tor, ready to buy drinks for students.

students.

Mr Di Rupo said: "I have visited certain places as a free man but I always kept to the moral principle that I only had relationships with consenting people. I have never damaged the integrity of anybody."

In a written statement, Mr

In a written statement, Mr Grafe, said the allegations against him were intended solely to harm his reputation as a public figure. But that did not stop the press from reporting that he had been in-vestigated for having sex with and 1984, and that his brother, Jacques, is serving a prison sentence for paedophile

Washington veto ends Boutros-Ghali's hopes

Mark Tran in New York and Jan Black in London

HE search for another African to lead the United Nations began in earnest yesterday after the United States cast its veto to block Boutros Bouros-Ghali for a second term as secretary-general. Britain did not support the US, but last night it

urged member states to avoid a "drawn-out and acrimonious debate". Earcounter the American veto by blocking any candidate

African countries de-clared their support for Mr Boutros-Ghali as the conti-nent's candidate in the next round of voting, but are privately preparing to put for-ward names acceptable to the five Security Council permanent members. Hamid Algabid of Niger,

secretary-general of the Is-lamic Conference, and Kofi | years earlier.

Annan of Ghana, the highly regarded head of UN peace-keeping, are expected to round of voting.
Unusually, the 15 members of the council have

agreed that an African should get the first crack at succeeding Mr Boutros-Ghali, because it is still Africa's turn to hold the job. But after this second phase the contest will be thrown open. So the pres sure is on African countries

to come up with an acceptable alternative or risk losing the post. Several are waiting in the

son, president of Ireland, to from the Philippines.

African diplomats want

to avoid their 1981 mistake. when they backed the wrong man: Salim Salim of Tanzania, who was repeatedly vetoed by the US for thwarting its efforts to pre-management.

In yesterday's secret but all-too transparent vote. postponed from Monday for procedural reasons, the US alone opposed Mr Boutros-Ghali, abandoned even by its close allies Britain and Honduras. The other 14 Se-curity Council members

"The secretary-general is gratified and really appreciates the overwhelming support shown by member states," his spokeswoman, Sylvana Foa, said. Sir John Weston, the

British ambassador, said Mr Boutros-Ghali had done a "good conscientious job". a different situation and we Leticia Shahani, a senator have to find a way out of this as quickly as possible."
Foreign Office sources said Britain would back a candidate satisfactory to the US Congress, and with a

Leader comment, page 8

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THE cathedral in Habana Vieja — or Old Havana — will be among the churches in Cuba the Pope visits next year, after he accepted an invitation yesterday from President Fidel Castro.

The worshippers are coming to mass in their hundreds because, they say, attending is now exercised.

The Habana Vieja — or Old Church that began four years ago when President Castro restored Catholics' access to housing and jobs and allowed the church to keep its property.

Since the government's change of heart. **

Lastro restored Catholics' access to housing and jobs and allowed the church to keep its property.

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Since the government's change of heart. **

Lastro restored Catholics' access to housing and jobs access to housing a property.

La Cubans count blessings

Shelley Emling in

Manila reports on growing optimism among Catholics

> USE WILL POWER TO CHEAT DEATH We do. Kidney research saves fives. So do legacies.

RESEARCH FUND hera Court, Stukeley

in a long time to hope —

and to pray.

"I am here because I something people feel free to talk about." thank him for allowing the Pope to come to us," said Caredad Baro, aged 56, who spends 40 cents on the bus journey to church even though she cannot afford

soap. It is part of a resurgence

tending is now easier and because the prospect of a papal visit gives them the best reason they have had in a long time to hope—

"There is not the fear among people like there once was," said the Rev Orlando Cabrera, the priest at Havana's cathedral for the

Speculation about an im-pending visit was fuelled last month when Arch-bishop Jean Louis-Tauran visited Cuba — the highest-ranking Vatican official to do so in 22 years — Cox

ous rival, former president Kenneth Kaunda, from the

been counted, Mr Chiluba had won up to 90 per cent of the vote. His Movement for Multiparty Democracy had gained 39 of 42 constituencies declared in the 150-seat

nomic sanctions against Zambia to punish what he called a rigged election. A new law ex-cluded him from the election because his parents were from Malawi and not Zambia. Dean Mung'omba, one of four candidates in the poll, also said there had been "massive rigging and elec-toral fraud" and added that his party would not recognise

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The Guardian

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Terror in the tunnel

Open wagons badly need more safeguards

nightmare scenario, a disaster almost too fearful to contemplate seriously. Now that it has happened, only two years after the tunnel opened for business, it will leave the deep scar that a nightmare always does. There were, thank goodness, no fatalities this time. But it was a close thing. The fire raged for nearly 14 hours, 12 miles deep inside the turnel. The tree of which it has the tunnel. The train on which it hap-pened was not especially crowded there were 34 people and 29 HGVs on board — yet two people nearly died and all were at risk from the smoke and heat, and the evacuation was clearly extremely hazardous. The emergency rescue system, tested only 10 days ago, worked well and undoubtedly saved lives. Yet the danger was very great indeed. The fire has done enough damage to wiring and cabling to shut one bore for several weeks, severely dis-rupting the tunnel schedules and cause many people to think twice before they use it next time.

The principal question which appears to arise from the fire concerns the wisdom of using open wagons to transport HGVs through the tunnel. When cars are transported on Le Shuttle, they are locked into air-tight compartments which minimise the dangers from fire. Lorries, though, are treated differently. They are carried in open "trellis" design wagons, so a fire which starts in one vehicle can spread to all, especially because it is carried on the strong wind created by the force of the train pushing through the tunnel. This was precisely the concern which was raised by the Consumers' Association report on Channel Tunnel safety in May 1994. It is obviously right that this problem should be considered afresh by the two inquirles which were set up yesterday

FIRE in the Channel Tunnel was the | particular - will rightly expect Le Shuttle to draw its own conclusions much more rapidly. The days of the open wagons ought to be numbered.

Safety was always a major issue in the building of the tunnel and the upshot of such a serious emergency appears to prove that good and necessary precautions were put in place. The thought — let alone the reality — of being trapped in a burning tunnel deep being trapped in a burning tunnel deep under the earth is a truly terrifying one. Two years ago, the Consumers' Association found that the public was twice as worried about crossing the Channel by tunnel as by air, and three times more worried about the tunnel than about ferry travel. Yet the tunnel remains a relatively safe mode of transport. The numbers killed at Zechrusza. port. The numbers killed at Zeebrugge dwarf anything that happened in the tunnel emergency, serious though it was. The effects of a serious fire on a

was. The effects of a serious fire on a ferry are at least as frightening as anything that happened on Monday.

The tunnel was, and still is, this country's engineering wonder of the age. That hasn't changed. But, after Monday night, the tunnel will be used with a transidation that did not promerly. with a trepidation that did not properly exist before. The travelling public has become accustomed to sweeping to and fro between London and continental Europe at immense speed and ease. They marvel at the convenience which can get them to Paris for lunch. They contrast it favourably with the sea crossings which were the lot of all previous generations. But, from now on, they are more aware of the risks they run. These risks will not deter many people, any more than the risks of flying deter air travellers. But the public will now expect tighter safeguards and more assurances. It has taken this fire to make us properly by the French government and the Channel Tunnel Safety Authority. But public opinion — and lorry drivers in gers that inevitably go with it.

Tough, but not tough enough

Government should follow the evidence: ban all handguns

Dunblane to move towards tighter controls over automatic handguns. Britain is now heading towards some of the toughest gun controls in the world but they will still not be tough enough. No one is more aware of this than David Mellor. He was a Tory minister in the Home Office in 1987, who saw his initial proposals watered down by the gun lobby. He was right to remind Parliament of this fact on Monday and vote against the Government's partial ban on handguns. What is needed is a total ban, not a partial ban. This is not a knee-jerk reaction to Dunblane. The evidence, which is overwhelming, has been shown to successive ministers, including Michael Howard. His own department published some of the devastating facts in its evidence to the Dunblane inquiry. It has taken a second gun massacre by a licensed handgun holder within a decade to achieve this second serious attempt to control Britain's growing gun culture, but there is

nothing kneejerk about this initiative. Compare US and UK crime rates. All American murder rates are higher than comparable British categories, but whereas US killings involving weapons other than guns are only 2.5 times as high, gun-related murders are 50 times higher and handgun-related killings 150 times higher. It is the availability of differences in murder rates. If guns are | rhic victory for ministers.

IT TOOK 16 deaths in Hungerford to i not available, substitute weapons tend produce stricter controls over auto to be less lethal. In the words of the matic rifles. It has taken 17 deaths in Home Office's evidence to the Cullen inquiry: "Even many robbers use guns fairly spontaneously. If guns are not available and something else is used, the outcome is highly likely to be less lethal." But the Home Secretary chose to ignore his own department's experts and simply pursued a partial ban. Of course a ban will not prevent some handguns being held illegally. But remember the three recent gun massacres - Hungerford, Dunblane, and Tasmania - were all carried out with licensed guns. The .22 calibre handgun, which will still be authorised, has a semi-automatic version which could be used to kill another 16 children in another school.

Standby for even the partial ban to be eroded through special exemptions proposed by the Firearms Consultative Committee, a supposedly independent advisory committee set up in the wake of Hungerford, but which the gun lobby succeeded in stuffing with gun enthusiasts. The Government may have won Monday's vote, but it has lost the argument. The public has made its position clear. There is an overwhelming majority in favour of a total ban. A government which wants to play a tough lawand-order card in the election, has been seen to buckle to the gun lobby. Labour emerges much stronger with its promise to back a total ban - and allow guns that leads to these phenomenal a free vote. Monday was indeed a pyr-

After Boutros — Buggins

There must be a better way at the UN: like having an election

Ghali, but the identity of the next secretary-general of the United Nations, and the prospects for the world body as it enters the 21st century, are very unclear. Until yesterday's formal US veto of a second term for the Egyptian diplomat, no one was quite certain that Bill Clinton would stick to the threat he made while campaigning last summer. Now that the doubts have been dispelled, the bargaining will begin. The problem is that it will be conducted mostly in secret and in a hair-raisingly brief period of time, between now and December 31. Governments talk mysteriously of candidates "emerging" and "soundings" being taken, as if the selection process was truly akin to choosing a pope. There has already been unedifying sniping between the US and France, and much more can be expected. Britain, interestingly, did the decent thing in not backing the US. But UN-watchers

tration, and a mandatory — and public election manifesto for candidates. As

it is sensible, reforms of this kind may

now be delayed for another five years.

SO, IT IS farewell Boutros-Boutros | predict that the next secretary-general will, in any case, be another African, following the custom of Buggins's turn that ensures each region of the world gets two terms in the top job. BBG's rudely truncated tenure means that it will be politically impossible to elect a non-African, thus automatically excluding possible worthies such as Ireland's Mary Robinson or Gro Harlem Brundtland of Norway. The irony is that if BBG had survived, or even accepted a compromise one-year extension, this unjustifed practice might have died a natural death. Better procedures are certainly possible: Sir David Hannay, one of the smoothest of Britain's men on the East River, has proposed a single seven-year term, a deputy secretarygeneral for management and adminis-



Letters to the Editor

Life, love and Germany

Y combining a plea for with considerable behause a referendum and the ment that someone had written on the blackboard: "If sting survey of stritudes on the same page (Leader, November 18), you couldn't have illustrated more dramat-

dren. Although the result will sound intelligent and wellconsidered — how could a mere "yes" or "no" sound otherwise? — those who bother to cast their votes will have done so on the basis of their anxieties about Hitler's stereotypes ruling Europe or because they think Jurgen Klinsman doesn't deserve to be paid in buttons, let alone

Terence Hollingworth. 6-impasse Frédéric Chopin, 31700 Blagnac.

YOUR report on British children's prejudices against the Germans (Still beastly after all these years.; November 13) reminded me of my daughter's experience a couple of years after my return to live here.

European Cup football and she came back from secondary school one day to tell me

Wide world,

narrow view

ONI Strasbourg (The late,

late show, November 9)

refers to the survey, Watching the World, carried out by

Third World and the Environ

ment (3WE) and sponsored by

a group of agencies including Unicef-UK. The findings are

Of 2,848 hours of peak-time

factual (non-news) program-ming monitored, only 98

hours had any filming done in the Third World, that is 3 per

cent. The report also details

14 per cent drop in such out-put over the three years (1994-

6) of the study. Natural history, celebrity-

fascinating

Churchill can beat Hitler, Gezza can beat Maitheus."

Your leader rightly points out the value of learning Gercurrency.

Age is no guarantee of wisdom and the outlook of today's adults will be little different from that of the chil.

Europe, German consumer anxieties — and the German government's response — seemed to figure prominently in the British government's Blame Someone Else strategy. It is not as far a leap as you might think to the shameful tabloid headlines during this

summer's World Cup.

It is time for the second world war to be remembered as an anti-fascist struggle and for the English to be encour-aged by their leaders and opinion-formers to live in today's world and to look to Orlaith Kelly. 138 Gwydir Str

YOUR leader recommend-ing the teaching of German may well be the most ilnation and language? In countries as diverse as

France, Russia, and China.

individual BBC2 and C4 pro-

grammes analysed by the report. Despite dealing with more complex, less obviously

ing 55 per cent of programmes gained average audiences of 1.55 million viewers and 7 per

cent audience share. This at-

DISAGREENAG

Cambridge CB1 2LL

surely be those of a past leader and a sports hero (eg for France, Napoleon and Cantona), and knowledge of the language would improve pupils' understanding. Self-evidently they cannot learn all the world's (or even

all the EUs) languages. Far better if they and the pupils of the other countries learnt one simple neutral language. Arnold Pitt. Yew Tree Cottage, Ivington Road, Leominster,

Herefordshire.

CONGRATULATIONS on your excellent editorial. Your supremely logical conclusion that "learning the langrage ... will transform per-ceptions", which is so patently true for German, applies no less to all the lan-guages being taught in our multi-ethnic and multilingual society.

Margaret Tumber. President-elect, Association for Language Learning, 150 Railway Terrace, Rugby CV21 8HN:

Please include a full postal address, even on e-mailed ones are more likely to appear. We regret we cannot acknowledge those not used

HE WAS

threatened by the mountin

pressure on producers and editors at BBC2 and C4 to de-

liver a minimum 10 per cent audience share.

SUPPOSED TO BE CONTROVERSIAL

the right to let the patient die? CONGRATULATIONS on amounts of analgesics such as morphine. Doctors constantly have to make judgments about

The doctors' dilemma: who has

Stephen Brown favour the authorisation of death by dehy-dration and starvation for near-vegetative patients (Is a flicker of life enough?, Novem-ber 16). How "near" will one have to be to qualify for such a dreadful death?

How much do judges even know about patients in a per-sistent vegetative state (PVS)? Their brains are not a "watery mass", as Lord Keith of Kinkel pronounced in the Bland case. The absence of eye-tracking is not always a sign of unconsciousness, as some patients

From where did James Mumby pluck the figure of 1,000 to 1,500 such patients? Britain has only 200 district hospitals. Some have no vegetative patients; some have at most two. A civilised society should protect everyone from being starved and dehydrated to death. All should be guaraneed nursing care. (Dr) Peggy Norris.

European Doctors' Union. 79 St Mary's Road, Liverpool L36 5SR.

HE reason so few cases of PVS have been brought to the courts for permission to withdraw feeding is because many doctors do not agree that the court is the best judge of whether a patient should be allowed to die, and feel the focus on PVS alone is totally

arbitrary. There are many occasions when the decision is made either to withhold treatment. withdraw treatment, or accel-

erate death with increasing

how far to go and try to act in the patient's best interests.
Mostly, this is in conjunction with the patient (if they are in a position to make a judg-ment), the family, nursing staff and other doctors. A consensus allows the patient's final days to be managed

openly and with dignity.

The recent spate of police investigations into such "managed deaths" has led to doctors practising defensively, as a recent example in my own hospital illustrates.

A severely brain-damaged stroke patient was tube-fed against the wishes of the family, despite the knowledge that she had explicitly told them she would not have wanted feeding if ever such circum-stances arose. The doctor concerned also disregarded the views of nursing stall and junior doctors on the grounds that he did not want to face the same fate as a colleague, who was subjected to police investigation for withdrawing freeding from a patient in a vegetative state and is now awaiting "trial" by coroner's court. Such a defensive declsion would have been un-thinkable a few months ago.

the BMA and the law are wrong to want the courts in-volved. The public trusts us to investigate and treat their lifethreatening illnesses and we should be allowed to continue practising as we have always done and help patients and families arrive at decisions which are in the patient's best interest

Do's and don'ts of the Good Book

GEORGE Monbiot points | cubines". I don't know out that the Old Testament | whether the Bible "takes Onbook of Leviticus contains a large number of detailed rules. most of which Christians have long forgotten (Vengeance is mine, saith the evangelical, November 19)

What you will not find there (nor anywhere else in the Bible, I think) is any reference to contraception or abortion In view of the mass of other regulations we can only con-clude that this is because they are never seen as issues. The Catholic Church has been making it up as it goes along. Another omission is monog-amy, indeed, there are pes-sages which suggest that more than one wife is okay (not the other way round, of course), and there are plenty of men in the Old Testament who have

whether the Bible "takes On-an's sin seriously" (the poor bloke got struck dead) but it was not as it is sometimes presented. Few of us would feel an obligation to have a child by our brother's widow. Manor Way, Oxford OX5.

MEMBERS of Reform sin and sexuality, November 16) should note that Leviticus did say men should not shave, or cut their hair, divorced per-sons who re-marry should be killed; no one should ever we garments consisting of both wool and linen Peter McDonald & Mikki Coleman. Walberswick Street.

Paying for the party

led travel and leisure interests tests to a significant level of accounted for 45 per cent of minority interest; yet such

₩OU suggest (Leader, | which has raised many mil-November 19) that the existence of a "blind fund" to support the Labour leader's office demonstrates double Every Labour leader in oppo sition, at least since the time of Hugh Gaitskell, has had to have such a fund to supplement the funding from the Short Money and party funds for the costs of staff and

We were particularly careful in establishing this fund. We consulted the two top QCs in this field. Their advice was that, because of the special position of the leader's office, it was important to keep the identities of all donors confidential so that there could be no suggestion that the making of donations might be intended, or might in practice operate, so as to exert influence or secure

We cleared the fund and its rules with Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner, and we have stuck strictly to these rules.

The trustees vet all contri-butions to ensure that they comply with the Labour Party rules on funding (eg no foreign contributions). The contributions of the fund to the leader's office are regis-tered in the Register of Mem-

bers' Interests. To suggest that this is in some way comparable with the Conservative Party, London SWIA OAA

lions of pounds in the last few months to spend on nega tive campaigning, and keep the sources secret from the public, while letting the Prime Minister and cabinet ministers know, is

House of Lords. London SWIA OAA N the second half of your larticle (Donors' names 'not known' to Blair, November 18), you report that Sir Robin Butler has vetted Ian Lang's

Rt Hon Lord Merlyn-Re

business-breakfast tour for possible impropriety. I have now written to Sir Robin asking him how it can possibly be proper for minis-ters to use publicly-funded civil servants and taxpayers' money to set up what is clearly a Tory electioneering

It is hard to believe that it is a coincidence that all the venues graced by Mr Lang at breakfast so far are in Conservative-held seats with majorities of less than 5.000. Small firms deserve help and support from government and have a right to expect rather better than this shabby PR exercise intended as a last-ditch attempt to save

Barbara Roche MP. Shadow Small Business Minister. House of Commons

Brief words

/OUR leader (November 19)

on the fees charged by the

Head of Media Relations.

55 Lincoln's Inn Fields.

London WC2A 3NB.

Stacey Adams

Unicef-UK.

Bar described one wholly exceptional case. The reality is that a standard appearance fee in the crown court, payable for most attendances, is 246-odd: The self-employed barrister pays insurance, chambers' fees and tax out of that, perhaps ending up with £25 or so for themselves, for work that could easily run to five or six bours of preparation the night before, travel, waiting and presentation. You wouldn't get a plumber for that or much more than the starter of a journalist's ex-Giles Curtis-Raleigh. 4 King's Bench Walk, Temple, London EC4.

INDA Melvern says (Obituary, November 18) that she gave Alger Hiss some declassified secret telegrams she had found in the Public Record Office "in the strictest confidence" and that Hiss told her she was "in possession of documents she should never have been allowed to see". In fact, what Ms Melvern passed to Hiss were photocopies; and the documents she should never have seen are freely available at the PRO for any member of the public to see and copy.

Anne Crawford.

Press Officer, Public Record Office, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DIL

A Country Diary

several as well as "con-

TAMAR VALLEY: Bedrag lugged up steep ramps to the gled Old Man's Beard, caught kiln tops, often by packhorse, up in hawthorn berries and and, at Halton quay, in trucked rotting purple bullaces, festoons trees in the derelict orchard and is rampant in hedgebanks above a dripping slate-cutting along the sunken lane to Halton Quay. On the quay, high tide has left reed is, wood and seaweed, swirled to the foot of old lime kilns. These distinctive buildings, with massive walls and broad archways leading to gleaming lime-encrusted cav erns, were last used in 1916. Then, burnt lump-lime was discharged from the arches loaded into wagons and hauled up the hill to Viverdon Down to sweeten or neutralise acid soils, ploughed as part of the war effort. Most Tamar Valley kilns were built in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, before the widespread use of artificial and chemical manures. Plymouth "marble" and South Wales coal were brought upriver in barges, winched out of holds. manhandled ashore and

pulled by a wire rope worked by water-wheel. Alternate layers of coal and limestone were packed down into the kilr wells, some more than 20 feet deep, to be fired and kept alight by skilled lime-burners. One ton of stone produced 11cwts of lime after eight hours burning and Halton's four kilns easily produced 500-600 tons a year, sold at 13s6d a ton in the second half of last century, to be spread over fields, and market gardens in St Mellion and St Dominic. Now, limestone is pulverised by powerful machinery in Dorset quarries and brought long distances in huge lorries. This afternoon, the quay's quiet is enjoyed by a few people in parked cars. gazing at calm reflections of Devon flelds and glassy. golden water, studded with leaves, flooding upstream through the great meander beneath Pentillie's woods.

VIRGINIA SPIERS

Diary

Dan Glaister

the world of spin-doctory. No, really. An update arrives on the career intentions of George Stember when what it the world map pha-whatsit, the young man who did lots of useful things for Mr Clinton and might be able to fix Mr Blair's flyaway hair in the run-up to the election. But wait: he might not come here after all! Golly. George, as his friends call him, is looking for a career in television. "He's meeting with every-one," said a US network source. George reportedly wants to "ankle the White House". The kid has been offered a Sunday morning talkshow, but had better move quickly. "We don't want to be lulled by his current celebrity and start thinking ahead of ourselves," said a TV insider.

ALLERS to the number of lan Greer Associates may be be-"5651" when the phone is answered, instead of the more normal "Ian Greer As sociates". But of course Mr Greer resigned as a director a while ago, handing over staff, some clients and the phone number to lobbyist Adele Biss. So why not answer the phone with the greeting "Adele Biss". Could it be that some of Mr Greer's overseas clients, no aware of his local difficulties, are still calling upon the lobbyist's services? No need, then, to know that the London office has effectively closed down. The voice at "5651" says he can out me through to IGA. "Who's calling?" Damn. rumbled. "Er, there's no answer, I'm afraid."

NE overseas client who won't have any further need for Mr G's services is the recently deposed government of idable Benazir Bhutto, Due to circumstances beyond even a lobbyist's control, the £400,000 account is no more. Shame. On current form Imran Khan won't need a lobbyist.

T'S spooky, it's threatening, it's enough to give Jack Straw nightmares . . . It's the latest Labour poster. "22 Tory tax rises since 1979", it laments, alongside a picture of two shostly blue hands, reaching out to the voters. Below, in restrained New Labour print, is the muted assertion Knough is enough". Quite, But who do the two disem-bodied hands belong to? The Demon Blair campaign came unstuck when the eyes were found to be those of a lifelong Labour supporter and jobbing demon eye mod-el. But what of the hands? onid they belo: to a lory The grey hue would suggest a certain J Major, although the green and blue is a tad too colourful. Which leaves Dr Mawhinney, Show us your hands, sir, we should be told.

MOOD is the new rock and roll? Give me a break. Food, as any eur will know, is the new fine art, in much the same way that fine art was in its time the new rock and roll. Confused? Then get down to Quo Vadis, opening next week in London, the latest concept in art-meets-food, and joint venture of celebrity chef Marco Pierre White and celebrity pickler Damien Hirst. Diners are in-vited to drool over the Hirst Collection as they study the menu. Highlights in-clude Abigail Lane's Blood Walipaper (1996) — red flock is just so passé — Craig Wood's Dad In Beans, disappointingly absent from the menu, and Jane Simpson's Ice Shelf With Assorted Jugs. a sort of high-art drinks trolley. But can Mr Hirst vouch for the prove-nance of the escalope of calf's liver with Alsace bacon and sage, porume pureé, sauce diable?

PETITION is being circulated by features writer Annie Leask to have Daily Express deputy editor Ian Monk reinstated. "I think you'd better sign this," she breathes. "Ian might not like it if he gets reinstated and finds that you didn't." Leask is married to news editor Ian Waller: both are proteges of the book-loving Monk.

NTERESTING change to last night's TV schedules: Wax meets Fergie, repeated. Good to see a comwork in Birtland.



Bring back the Lord Chamberlain

Commentary Catherine Bennett

HE QUEEN has appointed a new Lord Chamberlain, Lord Camoys, the former Ralph Thomas Campion George Sherman Stonor. He is, by all accounts, a fabulously talented nobleman, who boasts, among his many feats and achievements, the post of Consultor, Extraordpost of Consultor, Extraord-inary Section of Adminstra-tion of Patrimony of Holy See, and membership of the Court of Assistants, Fishmonger's Co. Better still, this premier Catholic, fishmonger and courtier puts "the arts" first in his list of recreations (the other is "shooting")

other is "shooting").

Cometh the hour... Could there be any clearer sign that the time has come to revive the powers of the Lord Chamthe powers of the Lord Cham-beriain, ancient scourge of unseemliness, bad language and blasphemy? The cansor-ship business is growing too big to be left to amateurs; to television companies, clerics, film distributors, stray politi-cians and lone members of time, God will provide a name | Virgin Mary, whom he ral successor to Mary White | apparently believes to be the house — but can we afford to

dards of probity, Mary White-house has been culpably in-dulgent. She presided, let us remember, over an era which featured the blasphemous excesses of The Life Of Brian and The Saianic Verses. She failed miserably in protecting failed miserably in protecting us from the gratuitous violence of Reservoir Dogs and
Pulp Fiction. She could not —
or would not? — silence the
prefane poet, Philip Larkin,
or those foul-mouthed puppets on Spitting Image. Three
years ago, with Mary Whitehouse still at the height of her
powers, Badio 1 was able to
broadcast, unexpurgated, a
10-part series called Eamon,
Older Brother of Jesus.
This year, however, thanks
to an intervention from the
Sunday Times, future appearances of Eamon have been
forbidden. A few weeks ago,
with the programme already
scheduled for 11 o'clock on
Wednesday evenings, James
Boyle, a Catholic and Radio
4's new Controller, decided

4's new Controller, decided that Eamon was too offensive to be broadcast at all, even after the 9 o'clock watershed — a time when most of those of a Christian persuasion have already gone out queerbashing. Like the Sunday Times, Boyle was shocked to

maculate mother of Jesus, and Eamon's complaints about the inconvenience of sleeping next to Jesus's "cursed halo" — when, as everyone knows, halos are al-

ways switched off at night. Some have asked whether it would not have been enough to broadcast a warning for Christians before each programme, but as Boyle must have realised, some of the faithful would inevitably have been tempted to judge for themselves, and might then have emerged faithless, having heard the Good Samaritan described as "an insufferable prat" and "a buf Since then, that insuffer-

able prat — sorry, Good Samaritan — Sir Christopher Bland, has ensured that henceforth all generations shall call him blessed, by pledging the BBC to the cause of moral rearmament. To this end, any use of the "f-word" (you know, the one mothers scream at their toddlers in supermarkets) will have to be supermarkers) will have to be specially approved by man-agement, and all profanity and bad language will be banned before 9pm.

Not to be outdone by this

ship business is growing too of a Christian persuasion have already gone out queer-bashing. Like the Sunday clans and lone members of the public. Some say that, in

filmed on television.

Morris, for those who may now remain unfamiliar with his work, is one of the most offensive performers on television, impartially rude both to idiotic public figures, and to foolish nonentities. Depending on your viewpoint, this makes him an offence against taste and decency, or a fearless patients. a fearless satirical genius.
After all, the "cake" incident tells us something about the susceptibilities and intelligence of our leaders, does it not? Morris's career is full of

such triumphs.
Channel 4 denies cold feet,
insisting that it merely "needs more time to review the series". Another, equally

Mrs Whitehouse failed to protect us from the gratuitous violence of Reservoir Dogs and Pulp Fiction

discouraging explanation, is that the series, if it began now, would end up by pollut-ing the festive season: "The material's too strong and sensitive to go out during Christ-mas week."

Of course, one can see the attractions of this banning business — if Chris Morris can be exiled from Christmas

ing answer to Chris Morris. That could be a way of using censorship construc-tively. Instead, the ranks of unwelcome censors are swell ing all the time. Religious ma niars and moral extremists have been joined by a new type, the bien pensant inspectors, who believe that some people should never be sub-jected to robust criticism of their beliefs, however ridicu lous or damaging. One reason why Christian pieties are sud-denly being indulged on Radio 4, may well be the real-isation that Christians have suffered in comparison with the habitually reverential

treatment of fanatical Mus-lims or gullible Hindus. Faced with this tide of priggishness, we need more ridicule and abuse, not less. If Christians complain about Christians complain about such blasphemy, then instead of backing down, we should be sure to mock the other religions too, without prejudice. There is little enough real mockery of our public life these days — the only place that Tory politicians regularly receive sufficient derision for deceiving voters, disgracing their country, and gracing their country, and attempting to kill us all with poisoned beef is in the caroons of Steve Bell or Martin Rowson. In print, New Labour has been more consistently and cruelly mocked by Bel Littlejohn in this paper, than in the increasingly gen-teel pages of Private Eye. Today, as reality outstrips parody, among those most de-serving of ridicule are the censoring overseers of the

BBC and Channel 4. But is there anyone left to

countries with acceptable human rights records. Never mind that Hawk alreraft sold to Indonesia have been seen over illegally-occupied East Timor. Never mind the evidence that British Alvis armoured vehicles were used to put down a pro-democracy demonstration in Indonesia last April And the Govern-ment still has not agreed to a ban on landmines which are estimated to kill or main 24.000 civilians every year.

ESPITE its professed concern, the Government remains determined to shroud the arms trade in secrecy. "Is it any longer satisfactory," asked Scott in his report, "that Parliament and the British public are not en-titled to be told to which countries and in what quantities goods such as artillery shells, landmines and cluster bombs have been licensed for export?" In response, the take the line of the Roman Ministry of Defence said that roed from Colchester to Lon-

reasons for secrecy national security, commercial confidentiality, diplomatic sensitivities — making it quite clear that if Whitehall gets its way, nothing will change. The much-trumpeted UN Arms Register covers only heavy weapons and is incomplete — oll-rich Gulf states, Britain's largest market for arms, ignore it. Yet there are signs that things will change. Yester-

day's announcement by the Government coincided with genuine public concern about arms in the wake of Dun-blane. The United Nations has set up a special panel to propose controls over trade in small arms (an initiative which has provoked outrage among the US National Rifle Association)

And as Andrew McLean of the Saferworld campaign group put it yesterday, Brit-ain would be open to criti-cism for extreme hypocrisy if we introduce strict controls on the availability of small arms in our society but continue to supply such weapons around the world".

The Government and its al-lies devote huge resources to combat drug-traffickers, yet does nothing to prevent them from buying arms to protect their empires. Who knows, morality and consistency may yet play a role in a debate which has been seeped in humbug.

A farewell to cant?

Allegations of small-arms sales to Rwanda have stung the Government into investigating the trade. But, argues

Richard Norton-Taylor, Westminster has a history of weasel words not action

ing of the arms-to-iraq inquiry, Andrew Collins, a prosecuting lawyer for Customs, was asked by Sir Richard Scott if the Government knew British arms dealers were evading controls by selling weapons to Baghdad via Jordan. Collins, now a High Court judge, conceded it was "probably right" that the Government had turned a blind eye to the trade. He added: "We are not

T A private hear | talking about nuclear triggers or chemical warfare or anything like that. We are talking about things which hlow people up which are apparently not considered to be all that unpleasant."

The discovery of documents in eastern Zaire implicating a British-based company, Mil-Tec, in the supply of large quantities of rifles, mortars, rockets, and ammu-nition to the former Hutu-led Rwanda government responstruction — nuclear, chemistruction — nuclear,

that the weapons came from Israel and Albania. Customs & Excise, the agency responsible for enforcing export controls, were quick to suggest that British export controls only covered the export of arms to Rwanda (or Zaire) from Britain. The UN embergo officials said, pre-

bargo, officials said, pre-vented British companies' in-volvement with the supply of arms to Rwanda from a third country, and that did not come into force until June 1994. Most of the documents found in a bus near the Zairean town of Goma were sup-plied before then. Intelligence sources, meanwhile, said they were concerned with weapons of mass de-struction — nuclear, chemi-

Tutsis, was greeted with a not with conventional defensive groan in Whitehall.

The documents suggested small arms.

Yesterday, in a remarkable turnaround — in style at least, substance has yet to be demonstrated — the Govern-ment was stung into action, announcing the setting-up of a new Whitehall committee to see whether the Govern-ment needs new powers to prevent British-based firms from dealing in foreign arms.

The Government, said officials, were "very concerned" about the allegations of the trade with Rwanda.

What a contrast to the astonishing completency with which the Government responded to the Scott inquiry. British arms-trade controls, we were told, were among the toughest in the world. The Government only signed with

businesses think more | disproportionate amount of national income is spent on coping with the aberrant behaviour of one gender, the problem gender—
men," she says. "From
special schools, boot camps,
football brawls, drunkenness and graffiti, to abused
women and children, traffic accidents and law courts." The solution: a tax on testosterone, payable by all men, to be added on income tax. "Car insurers give preferential rates to women in recognition of their more skilled and care-ful driving; the Govern-ment should follow." Mr

not marely on tex but on

partments into answering questions on a non-existent drug called "cake". One of the ally-billies, the MP David Amess, may have been feeling peculiarly sensitive having only lately bean tricked, by another comedian, into having his (suited) buttocks filmed on television. The first on the grounds of public decency, there should be a ban on the National Lottery Live, on Noel's House Party, on all indulgent garbage about the paranormal, and on any appearance whatever by Michael Heseltine or Anneling answer to Chris Morris. The first on the grounds of public decency, there should be a ban on the National Lottery Live, on Noel's House Party, on all indulgent garbage about the paranormal, and on any appearance whatever by Aikins, Christianity's foaming answer to Chris Morris. the cleavage of Essex



David McKie

NTIL last weekend, respectable Essex, assailed with the usual jokes about Essex girls and the like could see the like could see the like could see the like could see the like the like, could console itself with the thought this has nothing to do with us. Not for us, here in Saffron Walden (or Thaxted, or Dunmow), the howling arterial roads and the boozy hotels, all car parks and boozy hotels, all car parks and cleavage, where girls in huge hairdos and white stilettos assemble to worship the Chippendales. Ours is the Essex of history, the civilised Essex of Constable and William Byrd and RA Butler and Finchingfield Green: "The deepest Essex few explore/ Where steepest thatch is sunk in flowers/ And out of elm and sycamore/ Rise flinty 15th-century towers" as Betjeman wrote; though probably not while in Mucking, Fobbing, or Vange.

Vange.

They have this consolation no longer. A London ac-ademic, Dr Jennifer Ward, is reported to have come up with the thesis that Essex girls were Essex girls long before the term was invented; on the look-out for men from the age of 13, probably married at 20, and entrepreneurial enough in their instincts to carry on the business if husbands died young, as in the Middle Ages they so often did. So I guess this may be the moment to disinter the plans I have quietly worked on for years for the partition of Essex. The county as now configured has a population of 1.5 million, making it the second largest in England. Divide it in two. and the counties thus created would still be far bigger than half our existing counties. The only remaining problem is where you should draw the line between Snooty Essex (Old Essex, as it likes to think of itself), and arterial not-ashamed-to-be-vulgar Rssex, which I suggest should be known as Gormandy, after the

Boadicea (C, Billericay). No doubt the final details would be settled by some committee, but the obvious answer for anyone else is to own as the A south and east, but no such London influence north and west of it. One could follow this road from the boundary with the London borough of Havering through to Chelmsford, where the road runs south of the town, conve-

niently leaving the old county

spunkiest Essex woman since

capital safe in Snooty Essex. At Colchester, it circles north of the town, which means that we have to abandon it, since Snooty Essex treasures Roman artefacts as Vulgar Essex does not. A further diversion is need to accommodate Wivenhoe, which has al-ways represented itself as a kind of East Anglian Hamp-stead, where at candle-lit dinner tables people dispute the merits of Proust. But the few remaining miles before the dividing line reaches the sea are replete with menace. The problem I cannot resolve is how one should handle Clac-ton, Frinton, and Walton-on-the-Naze. Walton, 1 under-stand, is the kind of cheerfully garish holiday spot which glo-ries in floss and gewgaws, Frinton is just the opposite: It's the m plus ultra of snoot. Buses are banned; pubs are anathema. Until recently even fish and chips were consid-ered unacceptable; when the town at last relented, it took good care to see that the shop was quietly tucked away down a side street. It was even called the Nice fish and chip shop, either to honour the town's inerndicable niceness, or to hint at some kind of equivalence with a place of that name in France,

If Frinton were north of Walton, this wouldn't create any problems, but someone has blundered, and arranged them the other way round. Perhaps the solution might be to designate Walton as a part of Gormandy detached from often find in ancient maps Those who know Thorpe-le Soken better than I do may be able to say whether or not it belongs in this enclave.

There is also the issue of South Woodham Ferrers and Burnham-on-Crouch, on the estuary of the Crouch and nearer than they care to admit to Southend. Not many here, I imagine, dote on Jim Davison. Even so, I would keep these places in Gor-mandy, and this for two reasons. First, because it is right that each of my two new counties would have some touch of the other. Snooty Ssex would have Harlow to

eason it; Gormandy would

have Burnham-on-Crouch.

Stat South Woodham Ferrers should take the occasional knock in return for past cosseting. The Daily Telegraph used to have a managing editor who lived there and insisted on finding space for stories of South Woodham Ferrers, revealing, for instance, that the morning would be that questions would be answered.

It then presented a list of geology: London clay to the might do South Woodham been running late yet again. It might do South Woodham Ferrers some good to be lumped with New Essex to remind it how the other half

lives. Yet these, I would like to emphasise, are at present mere draft solutions. Those who know Essex better are welcome to try to improve on them.



Testosterone and other taxes

ANOTHER MANIFESTO

As THE Chancellor makes his final Budget refinements, he might like to consider the more innovative proposals Guardian readers have sent to Au-other Manifesto. This is our readers' open-access zone for constructive ideas our politicians ought to adopt which we will urge on candidates as the election

Our biggest mailbag so far has concerned taxation. Some of you take a simple costly to increase staff, so transfer tax" to encourage controversial idea from but traditional view: "tax more jobs could be created; the long-term holding of Chloë Baveystock, of south the rich", as AP Duckworth and those with young chil- shares, and thus make London: the testes tax. "A

of Milton Keynes so suc-tinctly puts it. Some are more radical still: "aboli-tion of the money and in return, slackers would ty's PPC for Jarrow.
If Allan Ridgeley, of Ab-

ingdon, had his way, a State Income of about £50 per week would be payable to every adult citizen. This would remove the need for old-age pensions, jobseekers' allowance, student grants, etc. A single benefit would be cheaper to run; firms would find it less

in return, slackers would be obliged to perform some wages system as a prelude to the demise of social class" might not be Mr Clarke's first thought, but then John Bissett, its proponent, is the Socialist Partice BPC for Joyrow tween the richest and the poorest since 1979, would set it at 200 times the minimum wage: "So if they want more, the richest must campaign for the poorest also to get more." Speculation taxes also prove popular. Nicholas Al-bery, who founded the In-

stitute for Social Unven-tions, suggests an "early-

long-term and responsibly. Speculators would also suf-fer under plans from Nigel Lee, of Nottingham: "A tax on the speculative move-ment of capital would shift economic power back to the economic power back to the Government and away from the financial mar-kets." A similar proposal from Alan Simpson MP was once rejected by Keuneth Clarke, though the Chan-cellor did suggest it might better suit a Labour mani-festo. And Bill Kerry. of fests. And Bill Kerry, of west London, calls for cor-poration tax to be banded according to the risks taken: "quality businesses which succeed by taking real risks and making real long-term investments in infrastructure and people" would pay the least.

Finally, an even more controversial idea from

Clarket Please sand brief proposals, anything governments might do to better our lives, to: Another Menifesto, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER (fax 0171 837 4530; e-mail)

Chine. For more information about YSO, please call \$181 788 1329. The hattle for a fairer world is one that's really worth fighting. Some people in the Third World rely on British arms. others rely on British legs, hands, eyes, brains and ears.

A view of the world

World Service Radio, would have had the faintest clue that the editor of this most-British television service was an Australian. The service began in March 1991 with one 30-minute news bulletin a day. It rapidly developed into a 24-hour service seen across Europe, Asia, the Pacific, Af-rica and the Middle East. Johan Ramsland, universally known as John, who has died aged 54, was its founding editor. John eschewed self-pub-licity, and gained his satisfaction from the pride in working for the BBC and the growth of the service.

He was born and educated in Melbourne and came to this country in the mid-1960s. It was a typical trip for an Australian journalist. He spent much of his first year travelling, and took what he expected to be a holiday relief job as a World Service newsroom sub-editor. But the job became a long-term appointment and he steadily rose to become an assistant editor, with attachments as deputy editor and managing editor. The Gulf war, which made

CNN's reputation as an international television broadcaster, was ironically his greatest career opportunity, and one which he grasped enthusiastically. The BBC, inspired by its then World Service managing editor, John

ONE of the tens of on CNN. John Ramsland, as-millions of view-ers watching BBC aging editor, was chosen to lead a staff of just 15 people and given three months to de-liver the infant that was World Service Television News, It was frequently derided or ignored by the rest of the Television Centre

Eight months after its low-key launch, WSTV switched to a 24-hour operation making a huge impact across Asia, particularly in India, and John oversaw a breathtaking expansion. By the end of 1994, the empire had a journalistic staff of around 200.

John had moved into televi-

sion with relatively little management experience and only a few months TV newsroom experience. Yet this was his strength. A more experienced person would have rejected the time-scale and the pitiful budget imposed upon him, but he cheerfully delivered the service on chedule and on budget.

Under his editorship WSTVN introduced radical new working practices, equip-ping World Service radio reporters with lightweight camcorders - thus making it the globe's first truly-bimedial news organisation. And, less obviously, John transferred to WSTVN Bush House's editorial ethos, making it a genuine, very modern World Service product in a medium where glitz is often regarded as more important



Johan Ramsland, right, with John Exelby, in the BBC World Service television newsroom

the least pompous and most approachable people I have ever known. It took three years to get him to abandon his scruffy, tiny offices for comething most appropriate something more appropriate to his position. Even then, he complained that the money would have been better spent

John had a favourite res taurant where he periodically took his fellow managers for kebab and chips: it was the Europe, a most unfashionable eating place in Shepherd's Bush, so run down that its identifying sign has long fallen from the front of the

John and I first met when we worked together in the newsroom at Radio 3AW Melbourne, and I will always remember him for his unstinting and deeply ingrained sense of loyalty to his family, friends, the World Service

delight in the trappings of his and its staff — and to a lost the prospect that he might position, but remained one of cause — the Australian Rules succumb. - and indeed to almost every competitive sport — that he once flew from London to Melbourne for the weekend to

> pearance in a Grand Final. Not least, Joban was deroted to his family: his sister Karen in Melbourne, his first wife, Carole, who bore him two sons, Johan James "JJ" and Ben, and his second wife, Sue, with whom he had a third son, Nick.

> The discovery that John had skin cancer was a tremendous shock to everyone. The cancer was a legacy of — to use his own words — "too many years sitting in the sun on Melbourne's beaches". He fought on with an extraordinary tenacity and just hours to speak of the future, refus-

sion colleagues that he could reconcile the austerity of the Bush House news agenda with the imperatives of realising it started our first news programmes on the ploneering News in 1991, it did not take us long to decide that John Ramsland was the man to do the job. He had long established himself as an outstandingly methodical senior editor and manager in the World Service

What was needed was some one who could run a wholly new venture, on a shoestring budget, in what some regarded as an alien environment -Television Centre — merging the proven discipline of radio news with the new demands and opportunities of television. Ramsland had to prove to his Bush House colleagues that he had not "sold out" to

George Byatt in 1963 when he devised, with Janet Carey,

Variations, a television series incorporating sketches, poetry

and jazz. It was at this first

finest talent, the rare gift of

No one was ever a stranger

with him, because he really understood that "too re a Jock

Tamson's bairns" and be

knew that what bairns needed

was a smile and a word of

support. It didn't matter

whether you played the fiddle or sat at a check-out, five min-

utes with George and you felt

that what you were doing was worthwhile and that you had

the potential to do better. One

of his well-used phrases was

believed passionately in the

encouraging of talent and

spent much time during his last years organising young

intimacy.

hoped he would and delivered more. He was not flashy or showy or egoistic. He was the ultimate "safe pair of hands", with sound editorial judgfar removed from the stereo-type of the hard newsroom editor. But his gentleness and openness actually made him more effective in getting what he wanted and his new baby deserved. John was one of its

in visual terms. He did it steadily, methodically, system

atically, efficiently. The first

bulletins rapidly expanded to extended news programmes

and within three years to a full network. He did everything we

rive with five strangers

picked up during the course of the day who had now bonded under his spell. "This is Alice,

she's a croupier, Claire is working at Marks & Spencer

just now but she's really a

realise that yet. Zoran has just

arrived from Yugoslavia ...

Wine would be opened. Debate

people I ever knew. His under standing of human frailty

made him completely forgiv

ing His condemnation was never for individuals but for

the structures which they, in

Whatever he was, or said he

eorgammon bluow

remembered for that

both infuriating and enor-simple. "Til be round about mously engaging. George was nine." At 10.30 he would ar-

Claude Ake

Beyond the smokescreen *

Professor Claude Ake, who was killed, aged 57, in the recent Nigerian air disaster, was his ability to penetrate the smokescreen of cant and pseudosociology generated by Africa's early political leaders to conceal growing per-sonalism and ineptitude. During the four decades around independence he was a widely-respected Nigerian critic of authoritarian rule and corruption.

"Power is everything," he wrote in a 1985 essay on the African state, "and those who control the coercive resources use it freely to promote their interests." Intolerant of the pretensions and mediocrity that he saw entrenched in Africa's political institutions, Claude had the courage of his convictions, and an ability to

He was a social scientist extraordinaire, combining academic rigour with a deep con-cern for the human condition in Africa, and he never ceased to be interested in practical

day-to-day politics.

Although he had prematurely retired from formal teaching, his scholarly pursuits had continued unabated; only this autumn he bad taken up a visiting political science professorship at Yale. He had attended King's Col-lege in Lagos, and graduated from the London School of Economics in 1962. His reach-

Reconomics in 1962. His teachnationalism and he held positions in the United States, Canada and East Africa. In 1977 he returned home to take up the chair in political economy, and deanship of social science, at the University of Port Harcourt. When he left teaching, be founded the Centre for Advanced Social Science of which he was the director at the time of his death. In 1994, he became one of only 21 individuals to receive the Nigerian National Order of Merit. He also held fellowships at Oxford and Cambridge, and at the Brook-ings Institution and the

Principled, open-minded, a foe of political intolerance, perpetually writing and speaking on democracy, he was not ashamed to admit that his views had evolved from the early radicalism of Repolucionary Pressures in Africe (1968) to more tempered, if ever critical, later works on political economy. He was probably at his best as a polit-

tional Center in the US.

HE HALLMARK of able capacity for simplifying, clarifying and contextualis-ing theory. He focused on pro-moting political, social and economic development and in his later years emerged as a leading critic of "structural adjustment" policies pursued under the tutelage of the World Bank and the Internal World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Yet he was willing to engage the objects of his criticism, and accepted the World Bank's invitation to join its advisory council on Africa, playing a critical role in assisting the bank and African countries to develop a new approach to building Africa's human and institutional capacity.

Claude was well-known in British political circles con-



Ake . . . critic of corruption

ance and revealed to a wider audience some of the darker ides of what was happening in Africa.

Last year he resigned from a commission appointed by the oil company Royal Dutch-Shell to study the ecology of the oil-producing Niger Deita, in protest at the execution of the minority rights activist. Ken Saro-Wiwa.

He was a decent and humane person in a world that has too few of such people. He had a very calm personality, and while a very private person he could be de lightfully convivial while forceful and penetrating in argument Africa has lost one of its best, and the world has lost a great internationalist and advocate of tolerance, democracy and human decency. We have lost a dear friend. Claude Ake is survived by

Douglat Wass and Dunstand Wal

his wife and two young sons.

writes: In our last conversation before his death, the Swedish ambassador Lars-Ake Nilsson (obituary Novem ber 9) voiced his delight that a February date has now been agreed for the unveiling of Philip Jackson's statue to Raoul Wallenberg near Lon-don's Marble Arch. Nilsson's sensitive advice and help will

their unwitting folly, I hope that he knew, as death approached, that those of us who know him well had our lives enriched by his presance. Indeed those who met be much missed. He was inhim only briefly were warmed and entertained by him. One volved from the beginning in planning this tribute to a of my last memories of him was in our garden this sum-mer with three or four of my daughter's friends sitting around him, thrilled and smil-Birthdays

Letter

ing as he filled them with excitement for their lives. Alistair Cooke, journalist He dearly loved his four and broadcaster, 88; Alexandra Danilova, dancer and choreographer, 90; Nadine children. They nursed him through the final weeks and were with him at his death. Gordimer, novelist, 73; Dal-Kara and I had George with us cie Gray, actress, 76; John Horder, poet and storyteller, 60; Patrick Ireland, violist, through every important part of our lives together, there 73; Piara Khabra, Labour MP, 72; Haseena Khan, will be a corner in each of our minds that will be forever dark for want of him, but the screenwriter, 58; Johnny greater part of our minds for-ever brighter because of him. Leach, table tennis cham-pion, 74; Kate Reardon, fashion editor, 28; Steve Smith, athlete, 19; Wilfred Wooller,

George Byatt, playwright, born April 30 1923, died November 16

Sir Sigmund Sternburg | Swede who risked his life to rescue thousands of Jews from death in Nazi concentration camps.

Death Notices

GLANVILLE. On 18th November 1998, De-lia, much loved wife of John. Fundral at

George Byatt

Incitement on the Clyde in deepest red

wright George Byatt, who has died of cancer aged 73, was incorrigible, irrepressible, never got anything like his artistic due and was always on the side of freedom and free expression.

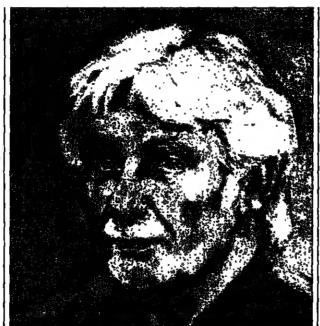
Born into a Glasgow Irish
Catholic family, educated at St influence never left him, although he rejected it, and like many Scots Catholics he was imbued with many Protestant world war he joined the Army, went through Sandhurst, the Scots Guards and the paratroopers, rose to the rank of captain and was in the Governor-General of India's body guard. He was profoundly influenced by India and especially impressed by a holy man. He never fulfilled his ambition to return on a personal pilgrimage, but the foun-dations of his socialism, na-

anarcho-syndicalism were In 1950 he married Margare Coady, and they had three sons and a daughter, although the couple subsequently divorced. He ran a Glasgow book shop, edited a magazine. Outlet, and sold encyclopaedias and vacuum cleaners, thus de-veloping the persuasiveness that made him an almost unout-arguable salesman of ideas. After a spell as Glas Citizens Theatre's press offi-cer be wrote news reports for the BBC. He then devised formats for programmes like Betuven the Lines and This Man Craig and scripted episodes of such series as The Trouble shooters and Softly Softly.

But he hated television's undemocratic ways and the scar-city of outlets for work with turned to theatre. There he found himself isolated and marginalised. The major repertory theatres were unsym-pathetic to his uncompromis-ing radicalism and his work received greater recognition in London than in Scotland he was the Soho Poly's first

·Back in Scotland in the late 1970s, he wrote his masterpiece, The Brus — about Robert the Bruce and the wars of independence — and started Theatre PKF (peace keeping force). His Prix Italia-winning The Clyde is Red Incited Scotland to revolt against evoked the spirit of Red

George liked to work from the grass roots and mentored many of the writers, artists and actors in Scottish theatre burgh Playwrights Workshop, tionalism and eventual creating its policy of putting editorial censorship, developing a system which forced authors to listen to the opinions of all present who wished to speak. He was prominent in the Scottish Writers Cooperative, active even in feminis organisations like Edinburgh's Women Live and, dur-ing the 1992 election. Artists for Independence, who were campaigning for devolution. He was happiest fighting with like-minded spirits against the state's big battalions. Visionaries are never easy to rub shoulders with and not every-body approved of his attitudes, but all realised he



George Byatt. . . working from the grass roots KARA WILSON

Silver Land. Perhaps now he is dead, a major theatre com-pany will produce these and in particular The Brus.

Helena Kennedy writes George Byatt was a wonderful companion, witty, wicked and iconoclastic, with a distrust of authority in any of its maniestations. His most recent profoundly moving play, written before his own illness, was about the death of his friend, the theatre producer Verity Bargate, who was so support wanted to make this world a ive of his own writing in the 1970s. The play engaged with the fear of dying and the self-His other plays include Why 1970s. The play engaged with the cracks, daring the fates to Does The Pope Not Come to the fear of dying and the self-do their worst — a reckless, Glasgow, Soldier Green and forgiveness that may be challenging quality that was

required before there can be resolution. It was a rehearsal for George's own journey. His illness became a meta phor for his abhorrence of orthodoxies and when a umour was identified in his bowel four years ago, he refused to have a biopsy or any other investigation. The power of the medical profespower and control. No amount of persuasion that early inter vention could be curative had any impact: he embarked on his own process of self-heal-ing. He was back in the childhood game of jumping over the cracks, daring the fates to

He was a constructor of aphorisms, some funny, all wise.
"A good family is bent on its own destruction." On Come

Dancing: "The mechanical de-terminism of the working classes raised to a level of aesthetic acceptability."

George, to the surprise of many who knew him during the past 35 years, was in his but he travelled far from it. In the 33 years I knew him he was a socialist, a Marxist-Leninist, and finally an anarcho-syndicalist. He couldn't just be an anarchist like me because it would be too lonely, so he opted for the syndicate

Life with him was never

raw. They could barely speak Hebrew, much less Arabic, and few were able to muster

Dr Economides Principal at Wimbledon School of Art — Colin Painter Further nominative determinisms from the New Scientist.

Thin line BUT THERE was a singular

this difference that the fearful power of symbols — of the irrational, thinly disguised as the normal — most struck me. A high proportion of the young soldiers guarding the roads that led to Jerusalem were black, Ethiopian Jews who had emigrated to Israel The Sephardic and Eastern European Jews in the army knew that border duty on the hell, and they knew how to get transfers to other postings. The Ethiopians, however were new to the tragedy that has beset these borders for three generations, and very

more than a sentence or two in a European language. As I tried to cross back into Israel at 9pm on a stormy night, one of these kids stuck his Uzi into my gut, unsnapped the

safety, and shoved me up against a concrete barrier. There was undisguised fear

international, 84.

cricketer and former rugby

in his eyes. Two hours passed before an Israeli lieutenant arrived leaping from his jeep before the driver pulled to a full stop. He had his service revolver out -- a precaution that seemed redundant as the Uzi was still pointed at my stomach, and there were half a en soldiers standing in a tight circle around me. He motioned them away, and asked in Hebrew to see my identity

papers. I answered in English, as angrily as I dared under the cirunstances: "This is my passport, and my goddamned press card. What the hell is going on

The lieutenant was American-born, from Brooklyn, and instantly apologetic. Israeli of ficers, especially those born in Europe or Brooklyn grasp the importance of a favourable press image in the United

The ligutement personally walked me across the border,

and flagged me down a ride into Jerusalem. "Twe got to ask

you, why did I scare that kid?"
"The beard" he answered I have a closely trimmed beard, black and slightly curiy.

It was news to me that it might be regarded as dangerous. "Give me a break," I said. Plenty of Jews wear beards." "Not that kind, pal." He ges-tured at my face. "The Jews

who have beards are either professors or Hasidim, and they keep them long and untrimmed. That's a Hamas beard you're wearing." He signed, turned his back, and walked away. What can

you do with a reporter who is so out of touch with the language of symbols, with the only vocabulary Israelis and Palestinians share. Frank Viviano, foreign corre-spondent for the San Francisco

Chronicle writing in Mother Jackdaw wants jewels. E-mail

jockdowie guardian.co.uk. fax 0171-713 4366; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London ECIR JER.

Jackdaw



Deluxe dance

DEAR (Newspaper editor): On Sept 26, McDonald's will make an important announcement that just may have adults across America

singing and dancing. What, you ask, could Mc-Donald's say that will make you sing and dance? The answer is the nationwide simultaneous launch of 3 new 'Deluxe'' sandwiches.

Not singing and dancing yet? You will. Be the first to see the hot, new dance craze to hit the streets, clubs or par ties of America — the Deluxe Line Dance. It's not the Macarena or the Electric Slide. It's McDonald's own contem-

porary fandango, to get people grooving to the new Deluxe Line Menu at McDonald's.

The Deluxe Line Dance will be performed by a chorus of San Diego Charger Girls, Mesa College Dancers, and of course Ronald McDonald to a new "living" jingle as memo beef patties, special . . . (Don't look now but you're probably A McDonald's press release

reprinted in Squall magazine for squatters

Dodgy cover

THOMAS JEFFERSON University Hospital \$46,354 for the president's housing allowance \$45,441 for a corporate

\$27,209 for executive automobile allowances \$23,584 for local meals and

day and Secretary's Day physician's office \$1,061 for plant rentals for a cocktail reception \$10,082 for insurance on fine art and the former president's | cocktails at an open house

utomobile \$603 for seventy small deak \$466 for twenty-four 10-carat-

gold-filled pen and pencil sets Medical College of Pennsylvania \$10,215 for clocks, watches. bowls, and other gifts for employees and friends of the

\$7,230 for paperweights given to employees and friends of the hospital on Founder's Day. \$4,697 for sponsorship of a

\$3,613 for retreats at a local hotel \$2,588 for flowers and fruit baskets for employees and friends of the hospital \$2,433 for a trip to Italy to in-

spect a sculpture \$1,581 for an employee holiday \$945 for a golf and tennis outing \$798 for coffee service at Holi-

Moss Rehabilation Hospital \$3,524 for holiday gifts to physicians 2,386 for entertainment and

lunch on a Saturday when he

ted to the federal Medicare program for partial reimburse ment by administrators at three Philadelphia hospitals. The list is taken from audit reports completed in 1994 by Department of Health and Human Services and printed in the Philadelphia Inquirer recently. HHS inspectors, who audited twenty-one randomly selected hospitals throughout the country, found more than \$50 million in expenditures that "toere not related to patient care" and thus had been improperly charged to Medi-care. Reprinted in Harper's.

Ideally suited A of Manila — Cardinal Sin

Head of Life Insurance ---Mr De Ath Defence Research Agency's pokesperson — Liz Peace

Spokesman for the amuse nent arcade gaming machin industry — Paul Beliringer Bristol Royal Mail Customer services officer — Gar

Chief executive of Sydney Harbour Casino — Neil Husband and wife dentist eam in Norfolk - Mr and Mrs Screech Leicester dental practice

Dentith & Dentith Leicester community psy-chiatric nurse — Graham Economics lecturer at Lonion School of Economics —

difference between Israel and the West Bank, and it was in

Mother Jones: by a whisker

Finance Guardian

Prue Leith in a stew over share purchases



Paul Murphy

RUE Leith, million-naire caterer and scourge of the corpo-rate fat cats, was caught on the wrong side of the law yesterday.

Ms Leith, a non-executive

director of Whitbread failed to declare her dealings in shares in the brewing and restaurant group in the timely manner demand-ed under companies legislation and enshrined in stock market listing rules. The offence can carry a jail sentence of up to two

to curb water

ment, Ending the Waste,

would create a "world-class,

water-efficient, sustainable water industry". The indus-

try would be subject to Labour's windfall levy on

Rejecting claims that

Labour's plans would have to

be paid for by customers through higher prices, by workers in the industry

whose jobs would be threat-ened, and by shareholders, Mr Dobson said: "The obliga-

tions we place on the water industry will have to be fi-nanced by the water industry.

It's rolling in money."
The alternative was to force

people to install water meters

at a cost of £4 billion, which

The proposals

Set and entorce tourism mandatory feeldage sirgets and refuse licences for more state extraction unless company car photostates a no alternative.

• Require companies to provide free test repairs end efficiency audits.

• Require companies to compense to compense customers for supply measurations.

• Introduce tougher fines for polluters including special measures at deal with repeat offenders.

repear one neets

highestay regulator to conduct a national andle of mains and savets.

Require publication of ennual performance targets and results for savice environments.

service, environmentaling record, investment, pay and perks, and profile.

utilities' profits.

customers. Frank Dobson, said Labour would require shadow environment secretary, said the measures proposed by Labour in its docu-

Labour vow

metering

income, and could threaten
public health.
Water supplies are metared
to about 1.6 million people, 8.2
per cent of water company
ters," he said. Mr Dobson also

water industry yes-

erday with compa-

nies being made more accountable to custom-

ers, brought under tighter

regulatory control, and forced to invest more in their

In its blueprint for the pri-vatised industry, Labour in-sisted that the 10 regional

companies will not be allowed to force customers to accept

water metering as a way of

Labour says metering a

method favoured by the Gov-ernment, would affect the most vulnerable, such as pen-

sioners and families on low income, and could threaten public health.

The charges

Weter companies

cellons a minute to leak

Although prosecuted

have been fined less than

21 million, 0.01 percent

for polluting 240 times,

of £10 billion profits.

Cut investment by

2361 million in first six

years of privatisation but paid 23 billion dividends.

invest so little it would

take 425 years to renew or reline sewers and 93

years to do the same for

· Have put in place pay

and perios packages for

senior staff and directors

worth 220 million

customers' supplies to

be interrupted without

warning 200,000 times in

ration mains...

going into the system.

allow half a million,

controlling demand.

years, or a fine, or both. The brewing giant is understood to have fired off a letter of apology to the Ex-change yesterday, having belatedly issued details of Ms Leith's dealings. Whitbread issued a state-

ment yesterday morning saying the director bought 5,000 shares (her first such purchase) at 722p apiece on September 23. But it later transpired that the deal was in fact done on September 3 and at a price of 712p per share. A corrected statement was published later in the day. Under Section 324 of the

warning and to introduce

mandatory targets to cut leak-

be subject to higher fines for polluting, forced to invest

more in sewers and pipelines.

and be required to publish customer service targets and

But a spokeswoman for the industry regulator. Ofwat, warned last night that manda-

tory targets to cut leakage could lead to higher water prices. "The companies would be allowed to cite such

targets in any price review by

the regulator," a spokes-woman said.

A Water Services Associa-tion spokesman responded to Labour's plans by saying that water companies already had

programmes for leakage con-trol which were beginning to

They also run extensive

programmes designed to en-courage customers to use

water more efficiently and

"In England and Wales we

siready have a world-class water industry, thanks mainly to the 217 billion

which has been invested

since privatisation to meet quality and environmental standards and to modernise

the water distribution and

Mr Dobson conceded that

some measures being pro-posed were already being car-ried out by water companies. But he said some of the exist-

ing voluntary targets to cut

leakage were farcically low. He added: "As far as we

know from the published fig-

ures, the water companies

have yet to pay corporation

tax on their core water and sewerage business. Since pri-

vatisation they have made profits of £10 billion and paid

When the industry was sold

out dividends of £3 billion."

for \$5 billion, the Government

wrote off £5 billion debt and

sewerage systems."

performance, he said.

ing within five working days. And under Stock Exchange listing rules, com-panies must notify the Exdealings immediately. Listed companies are also under an obligation to make sure directors report

their dealings properly.

Aside from the jail term
threatened under companies legislation, the Stock Exchange can either cenure a company (publicly or privately) or it can suspend

Companies Act, 1985, directors of a public limited spokeswoman was quick to company must notify any changes to their sharehold take a company's history works. She is vice-patron of Women in Finance and take a company's history on rule breaches — and also personal circumstances — into account A Whitbread snokesman

> "an oversight on her part," and he did not see the matter going any further.
>
> Ms Leith, a former Business Woman of the Year, is
>
> Also a director of the Hallbar Building Society, which joins the stock market next summer. Since selling her

Banking and president of the Royal Society of Arts. month as a member of Chapnel 4's Poverty Commission which recommended that a maximum wage should be

imposed on corporate fat cats, with top salaries lim-ited to 25 times a company's down 2/4p at 734/4p yester-day, Ms Leith is so far showing a profit of £1.125

With shares in Whithread

Hard sell ahead for Eurotunnel



Edited by Alex Brummer

AVING pulled back from the brink of finan-clal disaster in September and seen its market share climb to about 50 per cent of Channel crossings, the man-agement of Eurotunnel must surely have believed that the worst was over.

But now the company must grapple with an insider trading trading investigation by the Serious Fraud Office and the more critical issues of winning back customer and

Among the main draws of Among the main uraws of the Chunnel has been the be-lief by all those involved that this was a high quality engi-neering achievement, built and operated to the highest standards. The excellence of what it does would lead it to dominate the cross-channel marketplace — to the point that it might even start to ment early in the next can-tury. Such analysis has now been reduced to rubble.

The immediate financial consequences of the fire, will not make a great deal of difference when measured against Eurotunnel's reduced debt mountain. But the on-going costs could be considerable. Plainly, the whole freight fleet may have to be upgraded at what could be considerable expense.

Moreover, plans by Euro-tunnal to save about £30 million a year by sacking staff could also be sidelined if the fire means that greater safety cover, more engineers and enhanced customer service is need to restore credibility.

It is confidence, rather than anything else, which will suffer as a result of Monday operations in 1994 Eurotunnel's greatest concern was that the public would distrust a new form of travel. That has gradually been overcome the convenience of the

Now doubts return and within two years of opera-tions beginning. As an on-going business Eurotunnal has a huge marketing task ahead and as a share investment it is more fragile than

Systems failure

with which he prefaced his lecture last night to the Securities Institute ought ciman's audience to the general tenor of his remarks. Stressing his views on fraud and regulation were personal and unrelated to the Securities and Investments Board (he is joint deputychairman), Lord Runciman proceeded to inspect the system's many failings. There was the "cat's cra-

dle" of "overlapping jurisdictions", the anomaly of sub-agencies having fining pow-ers denied the board, the regulator's tardiness in tackling issues such as profes-sional competence and the internationalisation

And there were admirable suggestions on offer, some technical, some of broader interest, such as his division of wrongdoing into three categories: charlatarry (disguised incompetence), cheating threather of technical rates. (breaches of technical rules) and crookery. But lurking in the script

were two familiar proposals; the abolition of Juries in fraud trials (he is sympathetic) and the offering to fraud defen-dants of a "sufficiently severe regulatory penalty" in return for dropped or reduced crimi-nal charges.

Such notions of monkeying with English justice are con-ventional wisdom within the hothouse world of regulatory professionals. Perhaps Lord Runciman's health warning wasn't necessary after all.

Export pounding

HE rebirth of sterling as the favourite currency of the foreign exchange traders goes on. Last night the pound was trading at a four-year high against the dollar at \$1.6793 and at its highest level against the German mark since 1994.

The markets have become convinced that the recent rise in base rates to 6 per cent was not enough. With the UK economy apparently booming, as reflected in the housing market and tax receipts, the Bank of England will have to tighten further with futures contracts already pointing to a 6.45 per cent short-

term rate by year end.

The problem is that the strong sterling exchange rate is squeezing that part of the economy, the export sector which needs to be encouraged. aged. The markets are forcing the authorities to pay the price for past lapses in mone-

Wise move

EUTSCHE Morgan Grenfell has not been that happy a place to that happy a place to work of late, given the compli-cations of bringing the invest-ment banking and economic research operations of Deut-sche Bank and Morgan Grenfell together, not to mention the dent in the group's repu-tation as an asset manager as a result of the Peter Young

Against this background it is not surprising that there should be some high profile defections. Among the Bronwyn Curtis, who is leav-ing her job as foreign ex-change and bond strategist at DMG and moving to Nomura as chief economist and deputy managing director, after receiving an offer it was difficult to refuse.

Anyone unfamiliar with Ms Curtis's work can put that right on Friday when she and the other members of the panel of "wise women" economists give their advice to the Chancellor on these pages.

"problems that we all know about", but said slowly evolv-

British interest in Iran: last year exports totalled £332 mil-lion, up 15 per cent on 1994, and made the UK the only

leading OECD country to in-

quandary in its dealings with

of Iran over its nuclear ambi-

tions, its support for terror-

ism and opposition to the Middle East peace process,

lem with the unresolved

But it also strongly opposes

the unilateral US sanctions

which target non-American

companies and those invest-

ing in the energy sector.

crease its exports.

gave the industry £1.5 billion towards environmental costs. Taxpayers win reprieve US firm survives cash in VAT three-year rule

Roger Cowe

OVERNMENT nances, bulging with higher-than-expected higher-than-expected tax revenues, received a set-back yesterday when a High Court judge called on Customs & Excise to stop withholding millions of pounds in overpaid VAT.

The case is part of a con-The case is part of a con-

certed battle by businesses to overturn the Government's attempt to impose a three-year limit on the period during which VAT can be repaid.

If they were successful it could lead to the repayment of

Penny Hamilton, of accountants Coopers & Lybrand, said: "This is just the first act in a long campaign. It has shown that taxpayers are pre-pared to go to law to fight for VAT. I hope it gives a message to the Government to reconsider its position."

Former Paymaster General David Heathcoat-Amory and nounced on July 18 that legistation to limit the repayment which will be included in feat and pay up."

stopped making repayments beyond that period, despite the fact that many had already been agreed with taxpayers. nesses and their advisers, who pointed out Customs can make claims dating back six years and argue that both time periods should be the same.

Yesterday's test case resulted from appeals against VAT Tribunal decisions involving eight taxpayers, in-cluding the opticians association, mail order company GUS and the National Provident building society. Mr Justice Keene said the VAT Commissioners had abused their power in stopping repayments before the new law had been passed. He said: "The appli-cants are entitled to payment of the outstanding sums without further delay."

The decision has encouraged campaigners who want the Government to rethink

period to three years would be introduced in this year's Bud-get. Customs immediately sion will overule the Govern-stopped making repayments ment if it fails to back down. A spokesman for Customs said any repayments would be clawed back once the Bud-get becomes law. But Ms Hamilton said the Judge's comments supported the view that the Government could not legitimately overturn existing agreements, and might not be entitled to impose the three-year rule.

Tony McClenagahan, of ac-countants Deloitte & Touche, said: "The decision does not directly affect Customs' pro-posals to introduce a three-year VAT refund limit. It may, however, mean that rethink the proposals and at east introduce proper transitional arrangements

Liberal Democrat Euro MP Graham Watson, who has been pursuing the case with tax Commissioner Mario Monti, said: "Customs have lost on all counts — in a just world they would concede de-

renks as a five star hotel room Hyde Park Hotel, above, was sold by Granada Group to Mandarin Oriental crisis to enter fray for LEB

Built in 1892 as a gentle-

hotel in 1902 and curren

Simon Bearls Industrial Editor

PRIVATE US utility. Awhich six years ago came close to being renationalised after suffering severe financial difficulties. ties, yesterday became the latest company to join the British electricity takeover frenzy amid suggestions it would bid for London Entergy, based in New into local government control Orleans, was said to have in 1990, after its finances were drawn up detailed plans to hit by huge write-offs on a

T HAS been home to Rich-lard Gere, Madonna, each of the Three Tenors and is

currently sheltering five

ambassadors. The 185-

bid for one of the few remain-ing independent regional elec-tricity companies with London seen as its prime target.

The group would only say yesterday that it was pursuing a number of power industry interests around the world including in Britain. The Guardian has estab lished that Entergy, which is also in the process of tying up a power station deal in Hull with British Petroleum, came close to being brought back into local government control

HE WOMER: In Friday's paper the Guardian's distinguished panet of ecodomic advisors offers its Budget strategy to the Chancellos, based upon separt knowledge and insight into the

WEB WISE in a new service to readers, Guardian writers and this specialists from absolutions. Coopers & Lybrand will asswer questions about the Budget on the internet. Please post your questions—es tarse as possible—on the Guardian Web site https://gitandian.co.uk/hudget/ or by entail to hiddest@pubmillan.co.uk/hudget/ or by entail to ardian.co.mic. Available from evening of ... vember 26 until noon the following day.

\$3.5 billion nuclear power station project, Grand Gulf. The nuclear power project threw the company, formerly called Middle South Utilities. into financial crisis in the late 1980s. Its name was hanged to Entergy in 1989. Then the company was put under a tough price capping

Pierre White, boasts one of the few Michelin three star

The hotel's name will be

regime to compensate customers. A Entergy spokesman said that suggestions that up to \$300 million had been clawed back in excess profits sounded "a little high". The US group said that senior directors of Entergy

Power, an international sub-sidiary of the utility based in Little Rock, Arkansas, are in London led by Bob Cushman, the vice president of finance, and are thought to be finalising talks with BP on building a plant in Saltends, near Hull The disclosure that a poten

tial bidder for a privatised group came close to being "municipalised" will put renewed pressure on the Government to resist the latest wave of US takeover bids for electricity companies.

Iran plays down controversy and tries to entice business tato: Jeffrey James, our man in Tehran, referred only to

ian Stack Diplomatic Editor

ing economic policy offered opportunities for UK firms. CBI figures show mounting though still relatively modest ITTLE Iranian flags madrooped convivially along-side miniature Union Jacks yesterday as the Islamic Republic sought to tempt cau-tious British businessmen into its potentially lucrative market.

Scores of firms were represented at a CBI conference to hear an Iranian team advertise a country striving for regional stability and liberalising its economy so as to attract foreign investment. Serious problems remain though and one clue was given by the deputy oil minis-

ter, Mohammed Nejad Hos-seinian, who attacked "shortsighted and futile" attempts by the United States to isolate British officials steered

well away from this hot po-

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS Australia 204 France 8.23 Austria 17.18 Belglum 50.26 Canada 2.19 Hong Kong 12.62 India 59.75 Cyprus 0.74 Denmark 9,41 Finland 7,51

Italy 2,485 Matta 0,5785 Netherlands 2,74 New Zealand 2,29 Norway 10.34 Portugal 248.00 Saudi Arabia 6.24

Rushdie fatwa.

9 1 3 PM



Bad news for bowlers and coffee-house culture

Bank makes repo new rates weapon

Richard Thomas

HE Bank of England yesterday signalled a wholesale reform of London's money markets, bringing the City closer in line with continental trading systems ahead of European monetary union and hastening the demise of

bowler-hatted City gents.
Following an explosion in the new gilt "repo" or repurchase market, the Bank is drawing up plans to use repos as a tool for controlling mar-ket conditions and imposing interest rates. Repos allow the selling on of government debt between private institutions with a fixed date and price for a return to the original purchaser. Ian Plenderleith, the Bank's

executive director, said the decision would help London retain a pre-eminent international position, whether or not Britain decides to join a

single currency.

But the Bank's proposal
was described as "very had
news indeed" for London's seven discount houses, which enjoy restricted trading in Treasury bills with Thread needle Street at the end of each day but are increasingly seen as anachronistic throwbacks from the coffee-house culture of 200 years ago. The Bank suggested that daily dealing in repos would be open to all financial

Mr Plenderleith said yesterday: "The gilt repo market, established at the start of this year, has proved a substantial success, growing to at least 280 billion outstanding [debt].

"We have been considering whether we should extend Dry run at freedom for Old Lady

LABOUR is planning to give the Cank of England a two year "dry rum" at independence, w nce, with a will kill any hopes of it

ites Richard Thomas. mough Labour is comed that scars from battles over monetary poli-Kenneth Clarke, and the

credibility, one O pokesman said the case to was being seen as an c central council. "But if they me will be it," the Labour

Sank officials are ncerned the work of the bernamed (firm ac vernor, should Eddle George be asked by Lab to leave at the end of his tenure in 1998.

We hope shortly to bring forward proposals in this area for discussion with market participants." A report from the Bank is expected before

Christmas, Market analysts welcomed the move, which they said would improve transparency and liquidity in the London money markets. Simon Bris- European-orient coe, chief economist at bro- markets," he said.

kers Nikko Europe, sald: "This is a big and welcome step. Although it is not unexpected, it has happened faster than most people thought." The Bank would be able to buy and sell repos to help the markets "balance their books" at the end of each trading day, and would probably use repo sales to indicate changes in base rates, he said. Mr Briscoe said sweeping away the old system would benefit the City. "The dis-count houses are an anachro-

useful in the 18th century, but are completely inappropriate now," he said. "Do you see men in bowler hats rolling up to central bank doors on Wall Street, or in Frankfurt? I don't think

George Blundell, chief executive at Union Discount, one of the biggest houses, said: We have been ready for this move for some time. We are very adaptable, and we are already big players in the repo

Most market-watchers Most market-watchers agreed that the latest reform to the gilts market — following the introduction of the repo and planned market gilt strips, which allow the interest element to be sold separately from the debt — would leave the City well placed after 1999. They said the German Bundesbank and Bank of France already dealt in similar markets, though the US Federal Reserve was the only blg central bank to deal in renos every day.

Philip Shaw, Union's chief economist, said that in the long-term the Bank's move would improve trading prospects across the Channel. There are clear advantages to moving towards more European-oriented money

nism, which may have been

Spice Girls pep up solo

Outlook/ Pauline Springett signals death of tapes

O BUYER

emerged to snap up

EMI, despite fevered speculation to the contrary. Worse, the music industry is acknowledged to be de pressed across the world. The City was therefore braced for lacklustre news yesterday when EMI an-nounced its first results as separate company, after the demerger of Thorn KMI

three months ago. In the event, the market was encouraged by robust, if unspectacular, figures, underpinned by strong sets from ageing superstars such as the Beatles, Tina Turner and George Michael as well as by 90s acts like the Spice Girls.

More importantly, EMI's chairman Sir Colin Southgate came out with just the sort of confident pro- nose - perhaps £2 billion nouncements beloved of the Square Mile's pin-striped of £5.9 billion, a daunting number crunchers.

Re dismissed rumours about possible bidders as idle. But ever since the de- cerned about the lack of downbeat figures.

lysts have predicted that the music business would be gobbled up by a rival and those rumours helped to thrust the Thorn EMI share price skywards ear lier this year, although the lack of any bid so far has dampened enthusiasm.

Potential buyers may be keeping their powder dry until EMI's solo performance can be properly as sessed. Moreover, the recent high share price would have forced any v through the over current market value

But if Sir Colin was con-

buyers, he was not letting on. "No one has made me an offer and we are not up for sale," he declared

Of course, EMT's suitors have most likely been disconraged by the gloomy mood in the music business. The world's five largest music companies, incinding EMI, have all seen sales slow down recently. According to the Interna tional Federation of the Phonographic Industry.

global sales of recorded in the first half of this Polygram, one of RMPs great rivals, recently issued a profits warning, blaming depressed music sales. In the US. Time Warner has also issued

tunes should not be lumped with those of its rivals. He acknowledged that some sales were flat — in France. for instance — but insisted that the overall picture was buoyant. Overall sales growth was 5.5 per cent, although the figures looked worse, he said, because they were distorted by ex-

Sir Colin was clearly de-

termined that RMI's for-

George Michael, who belps to underpin EMI's performance, at last week's MTV awards in London 👚 PHOTOGRAPH: NAWALDI

change rate movements. Sir Colin also said that while some types of music, music rose by 0.2 per cent such as gangsta rap, were on the brink of a decline "there is only so much people can take of rape, killing policemen and denigrating women" - EMI's

ex of Take That. musical output was suffi-ciently varied to withstand cent of all EMI's album

have its eggs in one basket. The detailed results were a mixed bag. The most recent album releases have, for instance, failed to set the world on fire, although George Michael's 'Older' has sold 4 million copies outside the US. Tina Turner's Wildest Dreams has sold more than two million copies and there are releases due from Super-grass and Robble Williams.

Sales of cassettes are con tinning to fall, and Sir Colin doubted whother RMI three years' time. But that could be contrasted with the rise of CDs, which now the blow. RMI does not sales.

THE HEADY

BAe seeks German link

Simon Beavis Industrial Editor

terday confirmed that it is in wide-ranging talks with German defence groups about possible co-operation, underlining its ambitions to expand its naval systems interests and to push for greater integration of the European defence industry.

The company said it was discussing the possibilities of a tie-up with industrial conrlomerate Mannesmann, defence groups Rheinmetall and Wegmann, and collapsed ship-building group Bremer

The talks are thought to centre on the acquisition of Germany's leading producer of defence electronics, STN Atlas Elektronik, one of the

folded in May. BAe could end up taking a stake of up to 49 per cent in STN, which specialises in making torpedoes, weapons control sys-tems, marine electronics,

It appears that BAe could ian last week.

Iaunch a bid for STN with In a stateto either Rheinmetall, with ernment will insist that any stake. BAe refused to give any further details.

BAe's ambitions to build up its capability as a prime contractor in naval systems were initially focused on the acquisition of Trident submarine maker, VSEL. But the com-pany was beaten by GEC last year in the bidding for the Barrow-in-Furness yard.

Bremer Vulkan empire which | man, Sir Dick Evans, has been pushing for greater integration of the European de-fence and aerospace industry - a concept for which Ger man defence minister Volker Rühe indicated his support in an interview with The Guard-

In a statement confirming its talks in Germany, BAe which it has contract links, or said: "The discussions are in-with Mannesmann. However tended to determine the opit is likely the German gov- portunities that might exist for British Aerospace in col-BAs holding is a minority laboration with German partexpanding its naval system integration activities.

STN had sales last year of 1.45 billion marks (2578 million) and made net profits of 32.5 million marks. There have been suggestions that the receiver is anxious to year in the bidding for the complete a deal quickly to sell Barrow-in-Furness yard.

Since then the BAe chair- and 800 million marks.

Oxbridge class pulls top jobs

Workface/ Bias shows through despite Major's

classless society, writes Lina Saigol

HERE are more than 1.5 million students this term, a steep rise on even five years ago, but their employment prospects depend as ever on their choice of university or college. New research to be published next month shows that for all the Prime Minister's talk of a classless society, an Oxbridge degree is an ever more archidegree is an ever more exclu sive passport to the best jobs.

John Major may have never been to university but in the world of higher education class still holds sway. And nothing comes classier in the minds of business recruiters

than Oxford and Cambridge.
Until recently, Oxbridge's
privileged position in the jobs
market had seemed to be waning But as competition for the most able graduates inten-sifies, the Association of Graduate Recruiters says employers are finding it increasbre of graduates they need. To fill key openings, they are falling back on the oldest

universities.
Interviews with personnel the Institute of Employment Studies (IES) reveal that the informal hierarchy of Ox-bridge, red-brick, plate-glass and former polytechnics is be-coming increasingly entrenched. Whatever the actual relative value of degrees, many company recruiters are convinced that the entry selection at Oxbridge — where about half the intake is still drawn from public

schools — guarantees the quality of the output. All graduates now have a better chance of finding work | tain an objective effort to find than at any time in the past | the best candidate," he says.

five years. The AGR says va-cancies for graduates are ex-pected to rise by 17.5 per cent this year, growing at a faster rate than graduates are leav-ing university.

ing university. But there is still acute over-supply of graduates compared with the number of recruitment schemes. According to the IES, 177,500 graduates left higher education last year. The IES will reveal that al-

most three quarters have still to find a full-time job. So employers who have hundreds of applications to sift through "need a quick way of choosing a candidate." according to Ivana La Valle, an IES research fellow. The result is indirect discrimination. Prestigious employers such as investment banks, law firms and the civil ser-vice still target the elite uni-versities and shun students from less traditional colleges,

the IRS says. Philip Brown and Richard Scase of Kent University, authors of a study of class and higher education, agree that an Oxbridge degree carries even more weight than in the past. "Employers still believe that one way of measuring the best graduates is whether or not they've got into a top university," Mr Brown says. The civil service became

the first white male-dominated institution to make a concerted effort to try to break the bias. Last year, it launched a campaign to re-cruit highflyers from all backgrounds and end the traditional dominance of Oxbridge graduates in Whitehall.

By trawling through gradu-ates from red-brick universities and placing ads in ethnic minority publications, the percentage of Oxbridge grad-uates recruited by the civil service has dropped from 44 per cent to 39 per cent. Hugh Smith, BT's graduate entry manager, insists there

is no evidence of an Oxbridge "mafia". Universities "main-

Allied Colloids News in brief wants to be bigger in

polymers

ALLIED Colloids, the Bradford-based speciality chemicals company, yesterday announced a take-over which represents the first fruits of a more agreement agreement agreement of the second special contraction. gressive expansion strategy signalled by the appointment of new manager earlier this year.

It is to pay £234 million for a major US supplier, nanced by a rights issue of shares which will raise £173 million. The remaining 261 million will come from existing resources, which will push up debts to more than half sharehold-

David Farrar, who took over as chief executive after running Allied's US business, said buying CPS made strategic, operating and financial sense.

CPS specialises in organic chemical products for industrial use, especially in water treatment, coatings and adhesives, and is said to be a leader in water sol-uble polymers. It has sup-plied Allied, which takes 14 per cent of its output, for seven years from its plants in New Jersey and Arkan-588 and is also a reseller of some Allied products. Las year, it had pre-tax profit of \$35 million on sales of \$157 million and announced in April that it was consider-

ing seeking a buyer.
Allied also reported results yesterday which showed continued growth in sales and a recovery from the effect of last year's raw materials price surge. Operating profits were up by 8 per cent before taking account of reorganisation costs. Pretax profits rose by 4 per cent to £21 million on sales of £208 million.

The company said sales to the textile sector were still disappointing but else-

Record visitors lift Euro Disney profits

EURO Disney, the debt-laden theme park on the outskirts of Paris, yesterday posted a 77 per cent jump in profits for the year to the end of September but warned that it faced a tough 1997. It reported a 9 per cent increase in vistors to a record 11.7 million, thanks to lower entry prices. The company, which

11.7 million, thanks to lower entry prices. The company, which is 39 per cent owned by the Walt Disney Co, started trading in 1992, although 1995 was the first year it produced a profit.

Two years ago Euro Disney's dismal performance forced it to embark on a Fr6 billion (£700 million) financial restructuring. which involved suspending interest payments to its banks. Lease and interest payments are now being gradually phased back. These charges rose by Fr103 million to Fr568 million during the past year, and the company has predicted another rise of Fr200 million next year.

The company is hoping to offset charges by boosting revenue and attendances with a development plan which includes the construction of an eight-screen Gaumont cinema opening next March. — Pauline Springer

Vodaphone buys out rival

MOBILE phone operator Vodafone yesterday revealed a £77 million cash deal to buy People's Phone as it outstripped City expectations with a 21 per cent increase in interim profits to more

than 1222 million.

The group said the takeover of People's Phone would add
395.500 subscribers and 181 stores to Vodafone's networks, which
have grown to 3.5 million users worldwide, two-thirds of which

In the year to the end of October, People's Phone had sales of nearly £170 million, though it made a pre-tax loss on ordinary activities of about £7.3 million. — Stmon Beauts

Optimistic note at De La Rue

THE De La Rue banknote printing group said trading conditions were extremely tough at the start of the year but there were now signs that banknote prices were stabilising and the group's cash systems division was beginning to benefit from a reorganisation announced last year.

Chief executive Jeremy Marshall said profit fell 13 per cent to 260.3 million in the first half of the year as the margin on banknote sales narrowed and the group failed to recoup the costs of

Mr Marshall was confident that prices were beginning to stabilise but warned that there was still over-capacity in the market and it was too early to predict when prices would

Setback for Country Casuals

COUNTRY Casuals halved its stock market value to £12.3 million by warning that the women's clothing chain had suffered "a significant deterioration" in its business since October, when it

significant deterioration. In its business since October, when it reported a reduced loss of £812,000.

Yesterday, the group's shares fell 36p to 64p after the board warned that profits for the full year would be "materially below current market forecasts but not less than £1 million". The group are whole had seen stronger trading in recent weaks but sales of as a whole had seen stronger trading in recent weeks but sales of the company's Elvi chain had not sustained first-half growth. The company does not intend to pay a final dividend. — Tany May



17.63 (£15+YNT) Test tim Cat. 35.25p per min (38p + VAI) M Red Cale 117.75p per pain (19p + 1987) Personalithate peak terms are 200-2000 Man to Fig. Manufact particular being all the charged at \$1.77 inc 1911 an cook. Lan accol debtas arrives a charged and

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Racing

Weights and cash rise in **National**

Ken Oliver

OP weight for next year's Grand National is to be increased to 12st from 11st 101b and the prize money upped by £50,000 to £300,000 in a bid to attract class horses. These changes, along with the minimum rating qualifi-

cation being cut from 120 to 110, are aimed at attracting more entries and preventing a repetition of last year when only 27 went to post, the smallest field for 36 years. From January, the weight increase to 12st will apply to all jump handicaps of three and a half miles or over as the

British Horseracing Board seeks to maximise race fields. Charles Barnett, managing director at Aintree, sald: "We feel by substantially increasing prize money and altering the race conditions we have taken positive steps to achiev ing our objective of a Martell Grand National field that is strong both in quality and

"Our aim is to attract class horses whilst at the same time producing a field as close as possible to the safety

factor of 40."

Barnett will also be contacting connections of leading overseas chasers in an attempt to add to the interna-

tional flavour of the race. The changes were announced yesterday at Terry Casey's Surrey stable, home of this year's National winner Rough Quest Casey reported Rough Quest "better than ever" as he prepares to kick off a campaign that will in-clude the Cheltenham Gold Cup as well as the National.

and when he worked on Sun-day he felt tremendous," said Casey. "A month ago I thought it would be a long time before he would run, but Rough Quest's training programme has been put back by an injured tendon, but a gallop at the weekend, his first of the season, proved he is not far off race fitness.

Casey has earmarked "He is three weeks off a run chases at Cheltenham on Deand would be ready to run"



Honest effort . . . Tissue Of Lies (right) gets the better of Passage Creeping at Lingfield yesterday

Hill's make Rough Quest

18-1 favourite for a National double next April, with Suny

Bay 20-1, but the latter has

more imminent engagements

before Charlie Brooks, the

seven-year-old's trainer, even thinks about Aintree glory.

Suny Bay is 5-1 second favourite (The Grey Monk heads the market at 2-1) for

Newbury's Hennessy Gold

Hereford runners and riders

3.00 Lets Be Frank 3.30 Soottish Bamb

camber 13 and Doncaster the feally well. But we are not obfollowing day as comeback sessed by the King George events for Rough Quest, but if the gelding is not ready he until the new year."

both Kempton and Haydock courses suggests racing this afternoon.

Brooks favours the Limber Hulley, Tote RaceWetherby became the first course manager, who said:
"We had no Tote operating on

Hill Chase at Kempton, but the dramatic change in the weather has prompted him to declare also for the Edward Hanmer Chase at Haydock. A spokeswoman for the jumping season when yester-day's meeting was snowed off. Lingfield's all-weather track survived an inch of rain in an hour, but the Tote was Lambourn trainer explained: not in operation for the open-"Couldnt Be Better definitely runs at Haydock and the first ing race, which produced a freak dividend when the 5-1 preference for Suny Bay is Kempton where the good to soft ground will suit him. We winner Royal Action paid just over 50-1 on the machine. have left him in at Haydock

Reports from today's three

The Tote managed to work for the next three races, but was out of action again for the last three contests. The freak

zens. Going: Good to swit.

UX GASR (11) Bob Jos REAM N Tweston-Davie

14 SEPERAN MYSTIC (22) P Murphy 11-0 . COME ON AN R OLIVAN 10-12

GRASSINOPPER (14) J Specting 10-12 JUSSES KENSSIAN & Yardley 10-12 MORLE COLOURS 5 Grafton 10-12

PAULTON (15) K Bishop 10-12 QUEST MINISTER (22) P Marph WARMING REEF C Poptem 10-1

5 PORMENTURE (41) J Bradley 10-7 (2 LADY MACORIN (16) J Neville 10-7 (5 LITTLE KIDNIY (41) T Was 10-7 SECRET (MFT Mrs J Physics 10-7

7-94-17 WHEN APPROACH (21) (D) K 158197 9-10-271173- OLD BEBOSC (21) S (D) A Tarrel #-10-8 251-211 SUPER TACTICS (7) (CD) R Ainer 6-16-7 531P11- BO KNOWS REST (87-5) G L Moore 7-31-

A/111- CHAPPASS (307) M Pigs 7-11-10 ...

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11- THE TOSEACH (243) (5) J Functions 5

52823- WELSHIRAN (403) (5) M Blenshard 16
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3.20 RALLIFORD NOVICE CHASE 321 CA,566

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more 9 11 B M & Florence 13-2 (T Foreign) 10 mm

executed 6 11 12 P Hide 7-4 (J Gifford) 4 min tiogs 8-11 Chapmassi, 6-1 High Grade, 6-1 The Tolseach, 7-1 Tim, 8-1 Web

ng 4-8 Berude Not To, 5-1 Fina Thyris, 10-1 Ourcentellow, 12-1 Apple John 3.50 FRENCH STREET STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HART FLAT 2 C1,417

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- PREVATE BURNINGERS (2825) A CETTAL B-11-4

- CLICK ROWLER (URC) D INCRIDEN A-11-4

- SHERICK-S (1675) C Brooks 5-11-4

- SHERICK-S (1675) C Brooks 5-11-4

- SHERICK-S (1675) C Brooks 5-11-4

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PERSIAN BUNKSET Nites J Bover 4-10-13

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attings 6-2 Oxicl. Bowler, 5-1 Sistemora, 6-1 Flotsler's Leap, 7-1 Oximi Ezgle, 8-1 Military Lat-organism weather, 10-1 Lively Encounter.

70P FDRSt 11PS: Gulok Souder 8, Örlei Engle 7, Lively To

COP FORM TIPS: Sway Blay 9, Trying Again 7

1.00 Furses 1.30 Where's Wille

received a three-day whip ban (Nov 28-30).

Jennifer Hurley, Tote Race-course manager, who said: "We had no Tote operating on the track, but betting was go-ing on from Newton Abbot and Wetherby, before they called that meeting off, and

also from betting shops."

Tony McCoy had a mixed day at Newton Abbot yesterday. His two winners there means he now needs three to beat Peter Scudamore's fastest 100 which was completed on December 20, but he also

D Watch (2) Jij Kanamag Mr. J. Jakos

SPORTS NEWS 13

Cricket

Missing Jones lets Harris off the hook

Andy Wilson in Melbourne

NDREW HARRIS has Abeen spared a tricky decision by the with-drawal of his Derbyshire cap-tain Dean Jones from the Victoria team to face England A in the four-day game start-ing at the Optus Oval here

Harris joked after taking five wickets to set up England's victory over the Australian Cricket Academy in Mount Gambier on Monday that Jones had warned him not to bowl any bouncers or he would be running into the wind all next season, but Derbyshire's coach Les Stillman byshire's coach Les Stillman, another Victorian, had told him to give Jones a hard time or face a similar punishment. "I shouldn't mind," said Harris, 23, who emerged last

summer as a key member of the Derbyshire pace attack also boasting Devon Malcolm, Dominic Cork and Phil De-Freitas, "but I had to bowl into the wind all last season anyway."

Jones is not the only signifi-

cant absentee from the 13-man squad. The leg-spinner Shane Warne and the experi-enced seamer Paul Reiffel will be engaged in the first Test against West Indies in Bris-bane beginning on Friday, likewise the debutant opener Metthews Filiott Matthew Elliott.

the absence of Jones and Warne but will still represent a real test in the second of three first-class tour matches.
England A won the first,
against South Australia in
Adelaide, but Victoria
crushed South Australia in
the Sheffield Shield at the the Sheilleid Shield at the weekend, with outstanding performances from Jones, the wicketkeeper Darren Berry and especially lan Harvey.

Jones hit 182 in the first innings, Berry claimed 11 dismissals, including an Australian recorderualling seven in

missais, including an Australian record-equalling seven in
South Australia's first innings, and Harvey, who has
the nickname Freak, followed
a whirlwind half-century
with career-best bowling figures of seven for 44.
England A one definitely

England A are definitely without Jason Gallian, who damaged the index finger on his right hand last week. But X-rays revealed no broken bones and the Lancashire batsman will remain with the tour party. The manager David Graveney said: "It is just a question of getting over the pain he is suffering at

Adam Hollicake and Craig White, their two other Anglicised Australians, both with strong Victorian connections, will play. White returns, with Kent's Dean Headley, after both were rested in Mount Gambler. Hollioake was born in Melbourne and White grew Victoria will be captained up in nearby Bendigo after by the former Sussex all-rounder Tony Dodemaide in a child.

Law latest to leave Sussex

SUSSEX yesterday lost their third high-profile player in two days when the all-rounder Danny Law joined Essex on a three-

year contract. Law, 21, followed the leg-spinner Ian Salisbury, who signed for Surrey on Mon-

The exodus may continue with the former captain Alan Wells requesting per-mission to speak to other counties and the batsman Martin Speight considering a move to Durham.

Warwickshire's chief ex day, the same day that the sacked Rd Giddins was offered a fresh opportunity by Warwickshire. ecutive Dennis Amiss said

Haydock with form guide

/inders iff

ney profit

manga di salah salah

g 45 8 5. 4

2,10 Thumbs Up

following day as comeback events for Rough Quest, but if the gelding is not ready he will miss the King George.
"I ride Rough Quest all the time and know him so well and when he worked so Sun.

swimming has really helped.

We'd like to go for the National again and take in

1.10 Martin de la color police author only horicer autole en 12.00 14/12-1 QUENN OF SPADICS (18) (D) NTWA GOT- ANGLESSY SEA WAR (650) A Ball O CLEMENTAL REMAYS (1-9) A FORCES (1-7) A FORCES (1 E Harding
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AUGUSTON: 5 but 250 (Spaydox 2m Nn Fint, Gd).

AUGUSTON: 5 but 250 (Spaydox 2m Nn Fint, Gd).

Marii. Millerii B. Alexys behind, leiled all, 11th of 14, bin 411, to Advance East (Haydook 2m nev hall 1.40 LIVERPOOL KANDIGAP ROPERE DA CE,759 | C (1988-000, REALEMEN MIL. (19) (0) IN Mengher 4-19-0 | 02557- EMPOTWIST (210) (0) S Ketthewall 7-11-15 | 0155-14 STREAMT PROPERTY (19) (0) May M Revelly 5-11-12 | 21055-2 SANT CER. (14) (CD) F Lorden 8-11-6 | 21055-2 SANT CER. (14) (CD) F LORDEN 8-11-12 | 2554107- CERCOS LIBER (240) (0) MM & Eastery 5-11-7 | 22500- (MEDCERIT GEORGE (212) May L SIGOLF 7-10-8

TOP FORM THIS Desert Fighter 6, Saint Clef ? per Gaile, S. 11 S. L. Wyer copes (M. H. Elseinsby) S run Battings 11-4 Desert Fighter, 3-1 Saint Clei, 4-1 Circus Lies, 8-1 Holders Hill, 6-1 Eurotwisi, George, 10-1 Neatwife Star.

Popul Grippe - Internet modificate, Chaned leader, wegiered 3 cst, blundered nact, one paics, 4th of 5, bin 15t, to Cirect Route (Metherby Zin Mig not, GG). BANKT CHILA Prominent, outpaced approaching last, kept on Bet, 2nd of 6, 21 behind Chai-Yo (Haydock Zin http: htt. (6.0%) Made sh, soon clear, blundered 2 cet, all out, beet Salve 38 (Heckam 2ro apr hd., 58).
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SOULDERS HELLE Held up, ellor1.3 out, soon bestan, Sin of 7, bin 151, in El Don (Wedherby Zm hop hd., 6d).
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4 1 thank now hd., 6d).

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2 203-12 SYTTOMS (CROSE) (17) D Mindson 5-11-13
2 203-1-1 PALOSAMTO (14) (CD) M Pipe 8-11-7
3 5911-1 THALTYRIBERY TOPP (46) (CD) J Mindson 5-11-5
3 140-10 STORMSOLE (201) R Price 8-11-6
3 35961- LETTLE GURRIER (201) R Price 8-11-6 TOP FORM TEPS: Palesants 8, Teytion's Cholon 7

sprang Parts 5 11 8 D Bridgestor 1-3 (El Pipe) 3 zan May 2-1 Palosanto, 11-4 Myson's Cholce, 7-2 Turnpole, 5-1 Tullynearry Toll, 18-1 Little G nd, Gd. MYTTON'S CHOKSIn Headway Bh, lad 4 out to 2 out, soon outpaced, 2nd of 10, 10 behing Castle See

vegous noverson, sever 17 TONETH HAMOVOY 2011, lest 2 out, bit lesst, ridden out, best Calif kly Greent 61 (Hamostier 212 at de nor hal, GG-Pro). Le chibitation Held up, headway sin, ted 2 set, best Michigants Gone TR (Bangor Sin hor hal, Sid). Le chibitation Held up, headway sin ted off when politic up 2 out behind indictions (Challenhaim 3m representation is constructed. 454-431 TRUMMS UP (149) (CD) G McCourt 10-13-214:E-P SPANISH LIGHT (5) (CD) Strictin Barlow PC211-8 POTATO MAN (9) 8 Exteon 10-10-5 MC-68 SEREN LYMN (149) TO MAN (149)

Cup on Saturday week and he | just in case Kempton is off."

110yds hop ch, Gd-F41). MCMEL KRIGE Prominent, nidden 12th, seon no impression, Str of A. bin 271, to Forward Glen (Parth 3m hop

ch, Gd-Fm). MOHADORYY MARE Chased leaders out! outpaced three cot, westerned from and, last of 7, 201 belond Monyages Distinct. The Roy Roy Ch, Sd). 3.40 EARLESTOWN HAMMOUT RESIDLE 24, 71 110/cb 12.812

70P PCRSE TIPGs Halis Derring 8, Retier Bythe Class 7 1908: Sadja Teo 7 11 10 W Marsina 7–4 (illes J Planari) 4 vin Bettings 1-2 Halis Darring, 3–1 Better Bythe Glass, 8–1 Desent Porce, 12–1 Country Store, 12–1 Fist Top

Betting: 1-2 halts Derring, 3-1 beant syths case, 6-1 Desert From Stb, seend, bust years, 20-1 pages of process of the process

1.00 HARRIS STREET, STREET, STREET, HERRIS 310 2m 11 CLASS TOP FORM TUPL Lady Manney S. Little Kenny T. Stigries Mystic C

Rettings S-1 Fernan, B-2 Secret City, 5-1 Warning Heat, 6-1 Siberian Myelic, 7-1 Little Kenny, 8-1 Lady 1.30 BACTON HANDSCAP CHASE ADMINISTRAL OF EXATE 201 455/20- WRINES OWN (20) Probes 3-12-3
202 57/20-4 BRAINS OWN (20) Probes 3-12-3
203 55/40- WAYUPHIL (188) J Urbail 8-11-11
204 5-723- MORTHER OFFIRE (198) J Urbail 8-11-11
205 45-723- MORTHER OFFIRE (19) B Liverily 5-11-17
205 45-729- POPPETS PET (200) J Maller 8-11-10

Kempton programme

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loing: Good to polit. * Denotes blinkers 12.50 EXTREME CONDITIONAL JOCKSTS ROYICE BAN 20-0 INDRENDOS CONDITIONAL JOCKSYP POPING RAIN
20-0 SELLA SEXDONA (16) (SP) LIQU HIPTIGS 4-12-0
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20201- PORRE OF LIFE (1600) J Exchant 8-11-6
20201- ANALYSY PALON (120) N O'Schlann 8-11-6
20201- RAINES PALON (120) N O'Schlann 8-11-6
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203-202 SERT ALARM (16) (SET) (SET)

y repaire TOP PORT TIPS: Bulk, Seriem 8, Shift Again 7, Shifep 8 1995: Che Con Cherlie S 19 10 1 America 7, Shifep 8 pur ruws 1970: Bulls Spians 5, Shift Again 7, Shift of 6 1986: Can Can Cherlin 5 11 11 L. Appel S-4 (J. Yearon) 9 rm letting: 3-1 Bulls Sedons, 7-2 Shift Again, 4-1 Salion, 6-1 Catary Faicos, 8-1 Rad Light, Raga lemon, Notified Doing. 1.20 STAINES NOVICE CHASE 2m CA,560 \$1001-1 MERLINGAN (12) (D) D Micholson 5-11-5 267/23- PERS, THE POWERS (251) K SARy 8-11-6 3/01- MARKESHAM SPANICS (227) Dr D Chesney 8-11-6 U/II-43 WELDE MUSSC (26) (EP) C Brooks 6-11-0

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Un DERRONG JACK (21-6) A Carroll 5-11-0
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8100- LINIE OF COMBORDET (21-9) R Hodges 5-11-0
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8 MY RHEMANDOAM (19) H OPEN 5-11-0
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9753- PRYSECAL PUN (611) A Backinger 5-11-0
9754- REMAIND ALD CETT (2011) D Gendello 5-11-0
9754- REMAIND ALD CETT (2011) T GENDEL 5-11-0
9754- STROME PALLANDE (22-1) A GENDE 5-11-0
9- TREUK (1920) Mrs J PRIME 5-11-0
9- TREUK (1920) Mrs J PRIME 5-11-0
9- TREUK (1920) Mrs J PRIME 5-11-0
1 TREUK (200) J Bookly 4-10-9
1 TREUK (200) J Bookly 4-10-9 D Skyrma A P McCay A Magaire D Morris

Buttings 7-9 Tremplis, 5-1 Royal Event, 6-1 Not For Tursing, 7-1 Far Springs, 8-1 Haiona, 10-1 Strong Buildin, Rad Tal

2.20 HARRISH HANDICAP CHASE 2m 4f 110yds \$4,715 1 11F/161- SURY RAY (248) G Brooks 7-11-7 2 211P11- THYPIC AGAIN (217) (C) D Gendollo 6-11-3

3

Gold (4-1), 8-4 fev Denomination, 6 ran, X.
10. (RHodges) Tota: £4.10; £1.70, £3.20. Dusl
F: £7.50, £5F. £20.41.
1,30 (Zan Sf 110yda Ch); 1, OKSWEZL
LAD, R Dunwoody (11-4); 2, Fouthret
Remoo (9-2); 3, Caustry Reever (50-1).
9-4 fav Strong Terpula, B ran, Std. 15, [P Hobbs] Tota: £4.00; £1.50, £2.30, £2.30, Dusl
F: £10, 10, £3F. £14.61, Tricast £20; £2.1, N5;
Coney Road, Crown Horry, Jac del Princis.
2,00 (Zan 1f Hille); 1, LAKE KARERA, AP NGCO; £-1 tary; 2, Bevon Penagast (9-4);
3, Nerdense Prince (9-4) 12 ran, 15, 18, (P Nicholis) Tota: £2.80, £1.5

T Descent Derak Byrn B Feeten T J Marphy J Magee (3)

SIGNA AUVELIAR (10) J Pariot 8-11-3 5-2559 POXCHOVE (8) R Price 10-11-1 28-0-50 OPAL'S TREMSON (10) (6) J Bradicy 8-10-7 28-056 PRODERT PEDOY (62) R Prote 9-10-7 28-054 PRODERT PEDOY (62) R Prote 9-10-7 24-0-12 Register PEDO (21) J Marline 5-10-7 24-1-12 Register PEDO (21) J Marline 5-10-7 TOP PORM, TIPO, Where's Willia S, Poppela Pol 7, Million Com 6 (SOS: Man More) 4 11 2 Hr E.James 10-11 (C B Betsings 5-2 Where's While, 7-2 Northern Options, 4-1 Poppets Pal, 6-1 Militee Own, 19-1 Wayspildt. 12-1 Fatgrove, 14-1 Prudent Paggy. _D Bridgmeter _J Harris (?) _Hiss II J James (?)

2.00 BRIDGTOW SELLING MANDICAP MURDLE 2m 1f C1,840
301 3P35-0 LAWNSHOOD STROR (144) (D) J Spraring 9-12-0
302 84-1213 GLOWING PATH (14) (D) CREP R Hodges 8-11-0
303 2-4534 BY BARVESSLI (8) I Jones 6-11-3
304 8459-2 ALICE'S MIRROR (14) (D) K Spikot 7-11-0
305 PAFSAS TIBER TORSE (406) F Jordan 7-10-7
306 #4-4564 SCALP FRI (14) D F Printend 2-10-0
307 PFA-0-0 BRISSL (8) Runks 7-10-0
308 30804 ALIANST THE CLOCK (14) C Pophen 4-10-0
8 Transiers
TOP FORMIT TPR clowing Poth 8, Alice's River 7, Lawnessens Junks 4
19804 Carrin HRI 2 4 16 8 T Dissonable 12-1 (R J Hodges) 13 yes
Bettings 5-2 Alice's Mirror, 7-2 My Marvinsh I, 5-2 Glowing Path, 5-1 Lawnesse
Brissl. Ji Johnson S Wyres P Pritcher

2.30 EXCELLEGY ROTTERS CHASE AN H 110HL CLOSS

3.00 MISHOPS PROBE NOVICES HANDIGAP MISHALI IN501 0000-22 LETS BE PRINK (7) NOT Chaine 5-11-10 ...
502 970-2F COUNTRY MISHSTREL (58) S DOUCH 5-11-40 ...
503 1005-2 HILLIAM TIME (70) (30) B Burchell 5-11-4 ...
504 5506-5 YOUNG 2785 (40) B Rown 6-11-5 ...
505 PP-4115 BAWEN'S BOOST (74) (5) G Jones 5-11-2 ...
506 500792-5 STEEL (5810 (243) P Roth 7-11-2 ...
507 092-10 (2.00 MISHE 124) P Roth 7-11-2 ...
509 04305- MIDMA TEMPLE (4412) K Bishop 5-11-1 ...
509 04305- PARSHAM (2003) 1 Bonnet 11-3-5 ...
510 000-0 MISHS LINCY (2003) F Jordan 5-10-5 ...
511 0005-0 OUT OF THE BLITE (18) M Eckley 4-10-3 ...
512 0005-0 OUT OF THE BLITE (18) M Eckley 4-10-3 ...
513 0005-0 OUT OF THE BLITE (19) M Eckley 4-10-3 ...
514 0005-0 OUT OF THE BLITE (19) M Eckley 4-10-3 ...
515 0005-0 OUT OF THE BLITE (19) M Eckley 7-10-2 ...
515 0008-0 OUT OF THE BLITE (19) M Eckley 7-10-2 ...
516 0008-0 OUT OF THE BLITE (19) M Eckley 7-10-2 ...

TOP FORE TE'S: Lets Be Frank 8, Killing Time 7, Country Mines 1993: Three Philasophera 8 12 0 A BeCoy 13-8 (T Porster) 13 Besings 5-7 Lets Be Frank, 4-1 Killing Time, 6-1 Steel Gern, 18-1 C Bing Time, 8-1 Steel Gern, 10-1 Courtry Minstrol, Clog Hoseer.

SU BRIDGE SOLLARS ROYGES MANDREAP CRASK IN C.2
227-07 POUCHER (214) I FOSTS 6-12-0
227-17 ROKINGE VALLEY (6) (RF) M Prip 5-11-7
PS-221 RESERVE CASTAL (30) A Frical 6-11-5
PS-221 RESERVE CASTAL (30) A Frical 6-11-5
PS-221 RESERVE CASTAL (30) A Frical 6-11-5
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DOGG-3-ROKING (19) D MCCAN 5-10-0 R Johnson & Hogan (3) T O'Carmor TOP FORM TIPE North Valley 6, Mishops Castle 7, Seetlish Baseld 5 1996: Solening Stant 5 11 6 5 Burrough 11-4 (P Retford) 6 ran Bestings 3-1 Bestings Castle, 4-7 Nordic Valley, 8-1 Tempyesielign, 7-1 Astropad Ranipler, 8-1 Poutter, Souther Bestin

O WEATHERSYS "STARS OF TORORSOW" MARKES ON PURM WHILE, IT LASTS T Forster 5-11-0

64-3 LIGHT JASSIEUR (128) K Bohop 4-11-0

9 LADY ROSSBURY (149) R Price 6-11-0

1 LADY ROSSBURY (149) R Price 6-11-0

5 LOYELY RASCAL (149) O New 4-11-0

10 TRINGER'S CIBES (221) A JORES 5-11-0

TORORSOW'S BRANKES OF HOMES 6-11-0

O TRINGER'S CIBES (221) A JORES 5-11-0

WHITEET'S HIPLANDA G NCOMM 5-11-0

WHITEET'S HIPLANDA G NCOMM 4-11-0 SEE ONLY HIS FLAT 2m 11 CL305 Br & Winds (7) .C Hyere (7)

------ memore 2004 + 10 11 5 Gersen 50-1 (J Nolling) 17 yea Bettings 2-1 Warnette Gal, 5-1 Lovely Francal, 6-1 Just Jamrine, 8-1 Koaneen, Melstock Megsie, 10-1 (omorrous Harvest 1995: Kentlerd Tico 4 10 11 S Curran 50-1 (J Muller) 17 19a There are no horses blinkered for the first time today.

RACELINE 0930 168+ HAYDOCK | 01 | 201 KEMPTON | 102 | 202 HEREFORD | 103 | 203

Results

LINGIFIELD

12.20 (1ml) 1. BOYAL ACTION, M

Migham (5-1); 2. Cadomibella (7-4 fav); 3.

Ciss.40, No. Rosh (8H)

12.80 (1m 27); 1. DOUBLE NOSH, 3.

Sanders (11-4 fav); 2. Micradella (5-1); 3.

Comedy River (10-1); 13 ren. L. 5. (7 Mills)

Tote: (4.50: 12.10, 11.70, 11.50, Dusi (7.50, 0).

CSF: [18.06, Tricest: C111,37, Trice; C13.00.

1,20 (10m 4f): 1, BASOOS, D Biggs (14-1);
2, Master Milliand (6-1); 3, Meetgrinks;
(evens ten.) 7 ran. 2, rk. [8 Woods) Toke;
(2.70, ES.80, E2.10, Dual P. 128.70, CSP.
(2.74, S. Tricest: C122.78, Trice ES2.20, NR;
Esled on Nord, Forgotten Descer.
(1.80 (10m 2f): 1, TRAS MORNHOO, G Duil
(8-0) (10m 2f): 1, TRAS MORNHOO, G Duil
(8-1) (10m 2f): 1, Mornhoott
(8-1) (10m 2f): 1, Mo

RS7.56 Triceac 2540.77. Trio. 2162.40. NR: Blazer Moriniere, Chaprassi.
2.30 (2m 110yds Ch): 1, WELL THAND, J Frost (7-2; 2, James The First (5-4); 3, Bax Ta The Rescare (3-1); 4 ran. Shd. 7. R. Frost) Tork: A.1.0. Dail F. 23.50. CSF: 25.70. NS: Miss Marigold.
4.00 (2m 11 First): 1, TRANOS, A P McCoy (9-4 tax); 2, Never in Debt (10-1); 3, April Seventh (76-1), 11 ran 11, 2 (M Pipe) Tork: 4,20; Th.0. C250; E3.60. Dual F 15: 15: 10. CSF: 225.78. Tric: 873.10. NR: Babe Sem. QUADPOTT 801: 80. PLACEPOTT 2411.50.

Fair dinkum Venables back like a boomerang for Australia job

Martin Thorpe on why England's former coach relishes exotic World Cup mission

First Division: Man City 0, Huddersfield 0

City on road

to recovery

day's press conference really rammed it home that, yes, Terry Venables is the new parional coach of Australia. national coach of Australia: "We've had some fair dinkum discussions," said his new boss David Hill, head of the Australian Football Association.

Admittedly this was before the former England coach posed for photographs holding a boomerang, presumably to underline that he really had come back. But his decision to swap cultures from Euro 96 to the Oceania World Cup quality."

The those presented as to when the job properly and to finish the job properly and to the World Cup finals. Now I have a possibility of that J wouldn't have taken this job if I didn't think we could qualify." fying group is hard to grasp, for he must now work with a team in the international

Paul Fitzpartick

IE road to recovery

begins with a first step and although this

goalless draw repre-

sented another disappointing experience for Manchester

ment aplenty from their fans in a crowd of over 23,000.

They were quick to recog-nise the effort their team had

put in over 90 minutes

against a gritty Huddersfield defence on a night when little

luck went their way. Yet it

could all have ended in tears

We want 10," one optimistic

fan shouted at the outset, recalling the day nine years ago when Huddersfield were

beaten 10-1 at Maine Road.

Most City fans would now

settle for much less; a win of

first half of almost incessant City attacks. Most of the oppor-tunities were no better than

half-chances but City need to

Rösler, after only 46 seconds, should have at least hit the tar-get and soon afterwards Kave-lashvili wasted a partial open-

Andy Morrison, the Huddersfield captain making his

first appearance for two months, did not take long to

make his mark — on the back

of Rösler's legs — and was

That was an early sign of

ing with a poor first touch.

But there was no reward in a

scored for Town.

any size would do.

start taking a few.

NE phrase at yester- | nuses, over his 19-month con-

But there was another bonus. "What interested me was international football again." he said. "I really enjoyed my 2% years with England. I don't regret the decision to leave but I would have liked

For those puzzled as to why someone would swap a job as England coach for a job as Australia's coach, he insisted: "I've got to do what I feel is right." But he added that he

nuine class act.

ning for City at present.
The pressure on the Town

first corner after 61 minutes.

Huddensfield Towns Francis; Jenkins Cowan, Bullock, Morrison (Gray, 59 Sinnott, Red., Burnett, Slewart, Paytor Oalton (Lawson, 60) Reteress I Crulkshamis (Hartispool)

from the diving Lawson.

would love to play a friendly | hoped for. Those players I've against what he presumably spoken to are wildly excited must now call the mother

Australia is excited by it."

Hill sounded out Venables

for the job "a month or two

be offended by the overture. Now we have the best poss-

ible coach, plus the name

in Australia, where it is the biggest participation sport but lags in its quality at club

level and in spectator appeal.

The appointment of a Pom

has been criticised down under, but the national team

has never employed a native-born coach. Even the current

assistant coaches, who will stay on, are of foreign extrac-

many and Raul Blanco from Argentina. Hill himself hails

country.
As with England, Venables will be the sole national coach, working in Australia for about four months a year and for the rest of the year monitoring the form of the top Australian players, nearly all of whom play abroad. mainly in Europe.

He also announced that not

only would he be staying at Portsmouth, where he is director of football, but he would move up to become chairman. "It will be in an advisory capacity but it makes a state-ment that I am still helping Portsmouth as much as I can." Hill appears unworried by this, or Venables's forthcom-ing court cases, "We're fairly familiar with the details of those," he said, adding: "Terry Venables is the very

spoken to are wildly excited by the prospect and I think lia against Korea, New Zea ago. We used an intermediary from their foreign clubs too first to make sure he wouldn't Terry Venables is a bonus". Hill hopes Venables can help raise the profile of soccer

> the winners of Pool B, likely to be New Zealand or Fiji. In November the winners of

come in January: a four-nation tournament in Australand and Norway. So that players are not taken away often, six of Australia's World Cup qualifiers will also be squeezed together. In June Australia will play home and away against Tahiti and one of the Solomon Islands, Tonga or Papua New Guinea, in Pool A of the Oceania Group. Win that pool and they will meet

that game will face the fourth-placed Asian qualifiers for a place in the last 32; candidates include Iran, Iraq, Kazakstan, Lebanon -- coached by Terry Yorath -- and China who, coincidentally, are about to employ Venables's



Venables . . . no regrets

Australia's international record is not great but they rank in the top eight in the world at under-17 and under-20 levels, and in the Barcelona Olympics they finished fourth with a young squad that forms the bulk of the

"They are better than people think," said Venables, before declaring himself, on a cold, rainy London day, once again pleased with his new job. "I opened the curtains this morning and I knew I'd made the right decision."

Champions League, Group C Manchester United v Juventus

United heads are still above water

a draw may rescue Alex Ferguson

LEX PERGUSON is rather taken with the idea of making tonight's visit of Juvantus to Old Trafford a flag day. So far as the Manchester United manager's Champions League ambitions are concerned, Lifeboat Day might be more appropriate; the need for a rescue operation is

As United fans who stand up and cheer are likely to be ejected, it is going to be interesting to see how many of them are able to wave flags to any great effect sitting down. But unless Ferguson's players improve on their performance against Fenerbahce three weeks ago, the chances of United becoming the first English club in 11 years to reach the quarter-finals of this tournament will be left at

Fenerbahce became the first team in 40 years to win a European match at Old Trafford but, historic though the result was, the record might have fallen earlier. Since 1990 United's home results have been unimpressive; seven wins, seven draws and that

Juvenius may have only won once in nine visits to English grounds but a draw seems the most likely outcome tonight. Twenty years ago the Italian club lost 1-0 at Old Trafford, and on their most recent visit, in April 1984, they drew 1-1. This season they have already defeated United in Italy, Alen Boksic's lone goal in the Studio delle Alpi in September scarcely reflecting the Champions Cup holders'

With 10 points from their four Group C fixtures, Juventus are virtually through to the last eight. After this game, moreover, they will be flying on to Tokyo for the annual Toyota works outing other-wise known as the World Club Championship. So a draw tonight and no comulties for the coming en-

David Lacey thinks | counter with River Plate would suit Marcello Lippi, the Juventus coach, and would not leave Ferguson entirely displeased. For even if Fener-bance capitalise on their Old Trafford triumph by beating Rapid Vienna in Istanbul they still have to visit Juventus in a fortnight, when United play Rapid in the Ernst Happel

United know that four points from their remaining two games, giving them a total of 10, would be enough. Fenerbahoe might finish level but in these circumstances results between teams are the prime consideration, and United have beaten the Turkish champions by the extra goal. Avoiding defeat tonight might yet be enough to take United through.

Again much will depend on Perguson's foreign policy, which in the Champions League has brought him a surprising amount of criti-cism considering his unique domestic triumphs. His tuctics, rather than his team selections, have come under fire. Like Eric Morecambe performing Greig's plano con-certo, he has picked the right players though not necessar-ily in the right order.

Away to Juventus and at home to Fenerbahce, Fergu-son attempted to keep every-thing tight and narrow, and lost both matches 1-0. A similar approach now would invite similar problems.

Saturday's 1-0 victory over Arsenal sow Giggs revived after his recent calf injury. Cantona looking less like Joan of Arc tled to a stake up front, and Schmeichel with his confidence restored goal. Butt managed to halt the surges forward of one Frenchman, Vieira, and tonight much will depend on Butt and Keane coping with two more, Deschamps and Zidane.

Ferguson intimated yester-day that with Keane, suspended on Saturday, back in midfield Poborsky would be left out, allowing Beckham to play wide on the right.
Masshaster United (probable)
Schmeintel, G Neville, May, Johnson, I
Neville, Beckham, Kaane, Burt, Organ

Rangers v Grasshopper Zurich

Scots anxious to save face against their Swiss critics

Patrick Glenn

WINLESS, pointless and seemingly clueless after four consecutive defeats in the Champions League this season, Rangers face another **European** ordeal tonight when Grasshopper of Zurich

come to Ibrox. Though Walter Smith's side are chasing their ninth successive Scottish title and have a realistic chance of the domestic treble, their record in Europe's premier competi-tion stands at a miserable two wins from 16 matches in three participations.

Even Ally McCoist, the striker with the Midas touch, seems to don oven gloves whenever he ventures into the Champions League. McCoist, Rangers' all-time highest scorer with 324 goals, has yet to produce a single goal in the league stage of the European Champions' Cup.

was in the qualifying round, and at 34 and with only two matches remaining in the current series he is running out of time to rectify this blemish on his record. He insists it does not bother him, but he did resent the un-

made about Rangers by certain Grasshopper players after the Swiss beat the Scots 3-0 in the opening match.

"We have to admit that Grasshopper gave us a going-over in Zurich, but they weren't that nice to us afterwards," he said yesterday. There was a little lack of respect in their comments to the press. Our guys are pretty thick-skinned, but they won't

1

'Tm feeling fit and good again. In fact, after watching those missed chances of ours in the last 10 minutes of the Celtic game last week, I'm feeling mentally quite

superb."
McColst seems certain to start in a Rangers team which will be without the suspended Paul Gascoigne. Grasshopper, for whom victory would mean qualification for the quarter-finals — they could even lose and go through — will be He scored four against without the influential mid-Alania Vladikavkaz but that fielder Murat Yakin and leadbecause of suspension.

Rangers (probable): Goram: Cleland.
Patric. Gough, Bjorklund, Robertson:
Mcines. Ferguson. Alberts: Laudrup.
McCoist.
Grasshopper Zarick (probable):
Zuberbuhler: Haas, Gren. Smiljanc.
Thuler: Lombardo. Esposito. Vogel,
Comisetti; Turkylimsz, Magnin.

Wanderers fail to pass their latest Oxford examination

Oxford United 0, Bolton Wanderers 0

Jeremy Alexander

BOLTON seem unchast-ened by their Premier-ship experience and eager to go lack for more, though last night they scarcely looked ready for it. Oxford, bolstered by four successive league wins that had taken the from 16th to sixth place, held them easily in an undistin-guished match that defied the The fixture had been post-

poned to days ago because of international calls — nothing to do with Aldridge and Rush in the Oxford squad (no rela-tions) but McGinlay and Tag-gart, scorers for Scotland and Northern Treland respecpesiponed again after a day of unremitting rain and snow. but the Manor Ground slope does have its virtues.

Oxford had first use of it and largely wasted it with ragged passing. The surface was no excuse; astonishingly It played true. An audacious back-heel by Taggart suggested the goal in Nuremberg had gone to his head. Oxford intercepted that effort and a



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further slack pass by Bergsson but were too slow to

capitalise. They created nothing themselves until a deep cross from Angel on the half-hour. Beauchamp, who until then had run prettily to no purpose, met the ball with his wrong foot when he had time to switch to the right. Branagan got to the shot and needlessly scrambled it for a corner, but excelled soon afterwards with smother and grab to deny

Aldridge. Bolton were hardly more precise, holding the ball confidently but conceding it carelessly. Elliott and Gilchrist stayed tight on the strikers but Blake should have made more of McGinlay's early through-ball. He made mor of a lesser opportunity before the interval skidding a snap shot past Whitehead and the post. But for the most part defences ruled.

Aldridge was replaced by Rush at the interval and Bolton tried to pep up their attack shortly afterwards by introducing Lee. Neither had the desired effect though Lee, beautifully judging the flight of a cross by Sellars, cut in-side Ford with his first touch, Glichrist blocked the shot before it could test Whitehead.

This was the pattern. Both sides defended in such depth that attacks repeatedly foun-dered on the edge of the area. Oxford's central defenders were superb but it does not augur well for Bolton, should they go up, if Sellars and Sheridan cannot find a way to load McGinlay and Blake. Perhaps it was the wrong kind of snow.

Bolton Wanderers: Branagen; Todd. Phillips, 66 goson, Taggart, Fairdough, Johansen (Lee, 57). Seligrs, Blake.

ian club Perugia was called off last night — by the player himself.

sign Milosevic, the 22-year-old Bosnian Serb said: "I have decided I will not join them even if the two clubs agree a fee.

"A lot of people have said they would like me to stay at Villa, and that is a great feeling. After all that has happened I hope I can now give something back to the manager Brian Little." Little had lengthy talks

Results

First Division

Man City (0) 0 23,314

Second Division

Third Division

Carlisio (0) 3 Pagenco 73

0: Helsingborg 0. Anderlecht 0.

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE

land. Villa's manager said afterwards: "I am delighted Savo is staying because I have always felt he is a very good player with much to offer. He will come into consideration for Premiership game at Cov-

1,563

Fullyppe (1) 2 Conroy 13 Morgan 52

Swimment (1) 1 Penney 14

SCOTTISH LEAGUE

First Division

Partiek (0) 0 35,000

Tennis

Figle (1) 3

Wycombe (0) 6 7,857

HR proposed 24.5 million transfer of the finally convincing him that Aston Villa striker his future remained in Eng. | Scotland would accept that are far closer for our date, but want the match supporters."

Hundreds of Scotland for the sake of their supporters.
The Scottish FA met in

Glasgow yesterday and its spokesman David Findlay said: "We will resist any attempt to play in Cyprus. We entry on Saturday."

Scotland will resist any attempts by Estonia to stage their World Cup qualifying "rematch" in Cyprus.

Supplementary make a journey make a journey than five hours when the original match was only a lifying "rematch" in Cyprus.

"Our suggestion would be that there are plenty of Fifa-approved venues in Spain, southern simply do not see why our supporters should have to

inally scheduled game in Tallinn on October 9, when Estonia failed to turn up, are furious that they paid large sums for that trip. Middlesbrough's manager Bryan Robson emerged from talks with Emerson yesterday to de-clare that the unsettled Brazilian midflelder was definitely staying.

fans who attended the orig-

Robson admitted there were still "teething prob-lems" but added: "We will help him sort them out. He

Everton (7.45). HATTORWIDE LEAGUE: Picst Divisions of Charlton v Birmingham (7.45). Stoke v Wolverhampton (7.45). Second Divisions Millwell v ScreenSbury (7.45). Third Divisions Hall v Torquey. SPALDING CHALLENGE CUP: Second Stokeshoot Millwell v Torquey.

(7.30 unless stated)

authorities had hoped to confirm Cyprus as the venue for the tie, with February 11 the proposed date. Spain, southern Italy or ruary 11 the proposed date. Southern Portugal, which were sin lems" but added: "We will help him sort them out. He is not going anywhere. We

Rugby Union

Basketball

Hockey

Nottingham Parthers los hockey olds yesterday won their appeal to the Super-league against Manchester Storm's Inclusion of the Dutch-Canadian Bart Vanstaal, dules in the side which best them 5-4 ot at Nottingham test Saturday, writes Victinichelder. The match was awarded to the Parthers 5-0 socreline end Manchester fined C1,000 for using an ineligible player. The decision means the positions of the two teams in the league are reversed, Pauthers are now tourn with 13 points from 13 genes, one point more than Manchester.

The rules were broken," said the Superiorization of the first participation of the participation of

Sport in brief

Motor Sport

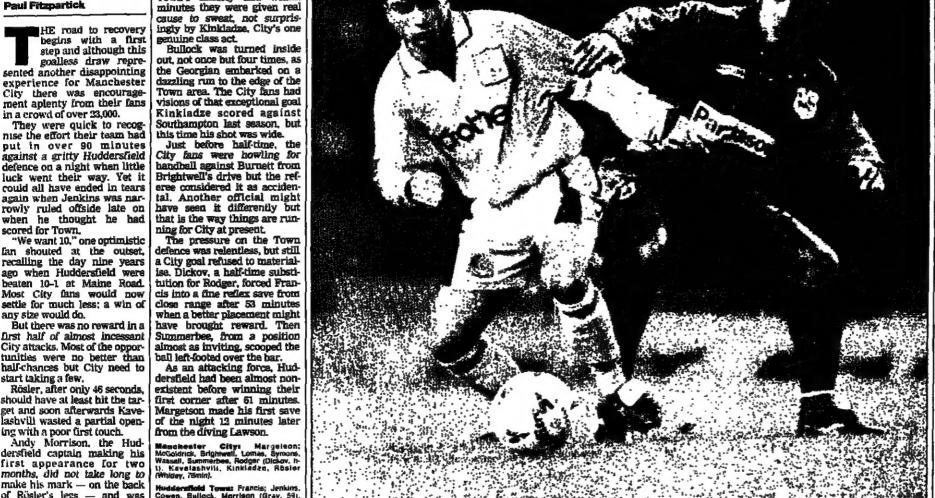
A retired rally driver from Norway, Rein Slattum, was killed yesterday in a head-on collision near Lisbon with a car driven by Jonathan Palmer, the BBC commenta-tor and former Formula One driver. Palmer, who broke his collarbone and an arm, had been hired to make a promotional video on the Ronda Prelude and was testing the car on a mountain road when the accident happened.

Basketball

The London Towers left qualification for the next round of the European Cup in the halance after falling 70-61 to PTT Ankara in front of a 6,000 crowd in Turkey yesterday. writes Robert Pryce. "Dia-mond" Danny Lewis sparkled only briefly before fouling out with 12 minutes to play.

Hockey

Birmingham City Council bas been awarded £370,000 by the Lottery to lay an artificial pitch at Sutton Coldfield,



Milosevic is staying with Villa

Savo Milosevic to the Ital-

While Perugia were still deliberating on whether to

Postpomed: Laylon Orient v Wigar; Manu field v Chester; Ruchdele v Scarborough Hartiepool v Caroff.

Pesspensel: East File v Greenock Morks

CHASE: CHAMPFORERIP (Nov. York):
First rounds I Emjel (Cro) bt A Huber
(Gor) 7-5, 6-9; L Davempert (US) bt 8
Paulus (Aut) 5-3, 6-2: M Floreit (Switz) bt I
Spirice (Rom) 6-1, 8-2.
LEADpec ATP RANGERISCIS: 1, P Sampras
(US) 4,299pt; 2, M Chang (US) 3,594; 3, Y
Kaleinistry (Rus) 3,594; 4, G Ivaniseurc
(Cro) 3,444; 5, T Moster (Aut) 3,196; 8, B
Biother (Gor) 2,534; 7, A Agusei (US) 2,384;
(Swo) 2,152; 10, W Ferreira (SA) 2,148.

Rugby Union

American Football MPL: Dallas 21, Green Bay 6. Basketball

Cricket THREE-DAY MATCH: Seldwell New Zeeland 17 (Zahid 6-54) and 211-7 (B Young 73). Pakisten Cricket Board XI 193-7 doc and 41-9. Match drawn. Equestrianism

Postponed: Emil File v Greenock Morker SPALDING CHALLENGE CUP: Second rounds (Cepering 0, Famborough 2 Rush on a D'monda 1, Sievenogh 2 Rush other a D'monda 1, Sievenogh 2 Rush phosek Wolfing v Welling.

UNIDOND LEAGUES Pirest Divisions Postponed: Workington v Curzon Ashton. Cups Second rounds Replays. Postponed: Workington v Curzon Ashton. Cups Second Postponed: Burton v Warcostar C. Albertions v Chettenham: Crawley In v Dorchester; Gravesend 2 N v Hestings; Heleacutester; Gravesend 2 N v Hestings; Heleacutest v Cepting 1 N Ashton In: Globacter C v Welport AFC. Polities Leagues Pout Suchury In v Ashton In: Globacter C v Welport AFC. Polities Leagues Pout Suchury V Blackburn. ice Hockey Squash

Barrade (Egypt) 12-16, 15-2, 9-16, 15-4, 15-13; C Rowelsond (Aus) bt D Harris (Eng.) 5-14, 15-13, 15-7; C Westlere (Eng.) bt Zerak Jahan (Pak) 15-6, 15-12, 15-11; Zehair Jahan (Pak) 15-8, 15-12, 16-11; Zehair Jahan (Pak) 15-14; R Rylese (Aus) bt M Calma (Eng.) 70-15, 15-10, 15-6; S Parks (Eng.) bt J Sonetat (Fr.) 15-12, 12-12, 13-15, 15-10, 15-6; S Startin (Aus) bt S **Fixtures**

TOUR MATCHES: Cambridge Univ 12. Western Samoa 14. Postponed: Lakinjar RESENTATIVE MATCH Lain U-21 v N Zeeland News U-21 carcelled. CLUB MATCHES Gloucester SS, RAF Peetpeneds Richmond v Combined Univ

WORLD RANKINGS: 1, B Tall (NZ) 457pts: 2 A Nicholeon (NZ) 300; 3, M Tadd (NZ) 372; 4, D Coveror (US) 351; 5, I Stark (GE) 320; 6, M Ryan (Aus) 285; 7, J Teulere (Fr) 270; 8, P Fishnell (GB) 234.

towny (7-A): Stimpbourse v Cembridge C (7-A);
PGMTRES LEAGUSE: Premiers Transcere v Oldram (7-D): First-Ascon Ville v Leice-ler (7-D): Port Valle v Corveolry (7-D): Presion v Blastipool (7-D): Sunderland v West Brom (7-D). Seconda Grinsby v Wreaham (7-D): Mansifield v Man City (7-D). Prediord v Burnley (7-D). Tarks Wigan v Bury (7-D). A VORT INSUITANCE COMMENNATIONS First Divisions Southampton v Areanat. Cage Ordord Utd v Carolit; Portsmouth v Bournemouth (7-D): Swindon v Bristol fivrs (2-D).

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Reebok's £ 1 37

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Old thunder claps for Krajicek

Stephen Bierley in Hanover

'IS no use pretending the Expo 2000 site on the out-skirts of Hanover is a thing of beauty, Not even yesterday's covering of snow could add anything in the way of charm, but then these ATP World Championships are not about charm or beauty; they are about Boris

In 1990 this tournament over from the Masters, which for 13 years had been held in New York German neid in New York German television paid vast sums to set up a Beckerfest in Frankfurt, and in 1993, the year Becker failed to turn up because of injury. Michael Stich won the title.

This new Hanoverian home is immense and built in that universal airport style of an

universal airport style of ar-chitecture that owes every-thing to the functional. The huge hall which houses the single red-carpet tennis court seats more than 15,000 and when Becker plays it seems twice that number

Yevgeny Kafelnikov stood no chance in his opening match in the red group, which also includes Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi, who play today. Becker strutted about as if he owned the place — he could probably just about afford it — and the holder of the television image prove him French Open title was duly right Lars Graaf, the Swedish

The first four days com-prise round-robin matches, with the leading two players in each group going through to Saturday's semi-finals. The to Saturday's semi-finals. The to Saturday's semi-finals. The white group is made up of Michael Chang, Goran Ivanisevic, Thomas Muster and the Wimbledon champion Rich-Wimbledon champion Rich-Muster 5-4, 6-4.

Chris Bowers in New York

ARTINA HINGIS served notice that she is now a threat to any-

one in the women's game with a highly impressive 6-1, 6-2 win over Irina Spirles on

the opening day of the year-

"I don't think I made any mistakes," said the beaming

Swiss 16-year-old, and indeed it was hard to spot any.

was a real danger that the mercurial Spiries, who can

play outstanding and appall-ing tennis on successive days, would be whitewashed. In the

end the Romanian must have

been happy to win three games against a player who used every inch of the court.

That is what makes Hingis such a powerful prospect. Not

only does she have remarkable economy of movement which allows her to glide around the

court with apparently mini-mum effort, she is as comfort-

able at the net and overhead as

This contrasted markedly

with the night's other two wioners, Iva Majoli and Lind-

say Davenport. Majoli de-feated last year's beaten final-ist Anke Huber 7-5, 6-3 in a one-dimensional match which

had two drop-shots but no vol-

leys, and the Olympic cham-pion Davenport likewise

blasted her way from the base-line to best Austria's Barbara

At 5-0 in the first set there

Hingis displays

rich repertoire

after this event.

the New York public. Her match against Spirles followed a glitzy presentation made to another retiring 26-year-old,

Gabriela Sabatini, but whereas most players would

have put in an early appear-ance and then disappeared to concentrate on their match,

Hingis stayed to the end. The top seed Steffi Grai was

due to open the defence of her title last night against Karina

Habsudova despite retiring from the Philadelphia final on Sunday with a back strain. Graf could have opted to play

today, giving her an extra day to recover, but the fact that

That windy wet miserable and unpredictable Wimbledon seems a long time ago and for Krajicek the post-title and for krajicek the post-true blues have weighed heavily on his broad Dutch shoulders. He had been playing so badly that he hardly expected to be here at all in the company of the world's seven other top-

ranked players.
Strains of "No they can't take that away from me" have played round his head since going to win another title, but

It would be a surprise if Krajicek took the title but at least he started with a bang against Chang, winning 6-4, 6-4 and thundering down more than a score of aces.

story, at least so far as the American was concerned. Above the court hangs a giant four-sided television screen that doubles as a scoreboard. The players can look up after in glorious alow motion, and

A heat-sensitive camera tracks the ball and supplies an image on the baseline and service line. In the third game of the second set Chang hit a fore-hand he knew was in. He quesand then saw the projected

umpire, was unmoved.
"It cost me the game,"
Chang said. He feels it is wrong that the players are able to watch such playbacks on court. If such a call goes



Getting into the swing of things . . . Andy Gomarsall acting out his new role during the England work-out at Bisham Abbey

side to their 1992 Grand Slam

debutant on Saturday at full-

back, was also in the side -

by Nigel Melville, now direc-tor of rugby at the London

Gomarsall recalls being taken by his father Jack, a

among other clubs in the Seventies, to England's inter-

national against Ireland at

Twickenham 10 years ago. Melville was in that England

Gomarsall's rise has been sudden; it could have been

Had Dewi Morris been in-

jured and had England beaten

the All Blacks in their semi-

final. Gomarsall would have

played in a World Cup final at Ellis Park after two league games. No wonder Twicken-

ham and Italy hold few fears

and has been guided at Wasps

- Tim Stimpson, another

Enter pocket battleship with attitude

Andrew left for Newcastle, taking with him a clutch of Wasps' senior players, includ-

ing the first-team scrum-half Steve Bates. At the time Go-

marsall appeared on BBC's Rugby Special and was forth-right about the dressing-room rift caused by Andrew head-

lan Malin says Twickenham and Italy will hold no fears for Andy Gomarsall, the surprising choice at scrum-half for England

looks a picture. The England squad in their pristine kit are having a gantle work-out interrupted by Jack Rowell's chortling laughter from the touchline. beckons and there is a new op-timism which none of rugby's the 1990s, but Hingis has the extra couple of dimensions which should make her the cal manoeuvrings can spoil.
"Gommers, Gommers" is the
cry to England's new scrumhalf, whom the coach watches with a paternal pride.

has matured markedly in recent months, and in the past five weeks has reached three finals, winning two, Fil-derstadt and Cakland; and in In Rowell's New England the selection of Andy Gomar-Oakland she beat Monics sall, the 22-year-old Wasp, is Seles in the final. Courage league experience to call on, Gomarsall is still a little wet behind the ears and, next match more than usually appetising, as she is likely to face Seles in the quarter-finals tomorrow. Seles was last maybe because of one of the night due to play Kimiko Date of Japan, the 26-year-old for-mer world No.4 who retires halves are forming an orderly queue to play for their

ountry. Kyran Bracken of Saracens, Despite recent reports about among the replacements against Italy at Twickenham on Saturday, might have got the nod and Austin Healey, Hingis's volatile temperament — she does have a short fuse at times — she has been making friends the world over with her refreshing attitude and is already a favourite with

ISHAM ABBEY in the | who scored a brilliant solo try | half's trademark. "I haven't in the European Cup against Llanelli recently, also has his

admirers.

But it is the dropping of Northampton's Matthew Dawson, who had taken over the No. 9 jersey from Bracken Western Samoa and had grown into it throughout the Five Nations, which has caused most ripples. Ian McGeechan, his coach at Franklins Gardens, seemed genuinely bewildered, and Dawson's fiery performance in the lesgue win over Bath 11

days ago was his own retort. Rowell has called Gomar-

their trade because of the new that prevents opposing back-rows from leaving from the game. He led an exreleased by the No.9s. That extra second or two gives a powerful player such as Gomarsall the opportunity to stopped amiling since I was picked. This will be the greatest day of my life," he said. He was thrust into the spot-light last autumn after Rob

This was demonstrated in the season's most astonishing club result so far, Wasps' 77-17 demolition of the European champions Toulouse last month. Freakish result or not. Gomarsall and his new club half-back partner Alex King ruled the roost that day. King is on the bench on Saturday and how quickly Going north.

Not for Gomarsall the platiship with Mike Catt, the

Gomarsall's rise has been sudden:

football manager, said the goal-kicking centre from 2600,000 four-year deal with South Queensland Crushers

will be crucial to the outcome of what could be a tricky fix-

A final-year student at

on a two-year contract.

Turner was recommended

to Oldham by Bob Lindner, a

former player and coach at Watersheddings, and Quinn is confident he will sign a

prop before he leaves Austra-lia this week.

Sean McVean's contract

with Castleford is also for two years. McVean, a prop. made 68 first-grade appearances with St George and 27 with

Balmain, now the Sydney

Exiles coach leaves again

Rugby Union

LIVE WOODWARD, the former England and Lions centre, has resigned as coach of London Irish for the second time this year. His decision follows the arrival at Sunbury of Willie Anderson as full-time direc-

tor of rugby.
Woodward, who left the ing the summer when the agm demanded that all offi-cials be of Irish descent, cannot devote himself full-time to coaching the team, and An-derson is now in full charge. Woodward said: "At a meet-

ing in Belfast two weeks ago I told Willie that if it were necessary for me to stand down in order for the club to secure his services on a full-time basis I would do so. Although I did not think it necessa since his arrival on Thursday evening have clearly made this action necessary by me.
"The club needed a fulltime rugby director and forwards coach. Now they have

got one."
The Exiles are struggling with only one win from eight games and have reduced their £500-a-man match fee to £100 and reduced payments to leave scope for win bonuses.
The Bristol captain Martin

Corry has been drafted into Corry has been draited into England's squad for Saturday's Test against Italy as cover for the back row, with Ben Clarke recovering only slowly from a dead leg. If Clarke does not recover in a day or two, Wasps' Chris Sheasby will win his first cap and Corry will take Sheasby's and Corry will take Sheasby's place on the bench. players keen to make a living from the game. He led an ex-ceptional England Schools

Mark Regan, who has been out for a month with a broken training yesterday. The wing Adedayo Adebayo, due to win his first cap, also trained even though he was given the op-tion of resting a leg injury. Italy's wing Massimo Ra-

vazzolo will miss the game after pulling a muscle. Nicola in a 21-man squad who fly to

England were unable to train outside because of snow and flooded pitches and worked out on indoor tennis courts at Bisham Abbey. The Argentinians include

six of the players who fin-ished last Saturday's second Cup last year Bracken was in- the side to face London at against Western Samoa. The Last night's game between then 20-year-old Gomarsall Leinster and the Australians was in Australia on an Eng-

and A tour and was called up | foul weather in Dublin. to join the World Cup party as a replacement.

• Cambridge University came agonisingly close to emulating last season's victory over the Western Samoans when they were beaten 14-13 by the tour-ists in driving rain at Grange Road. The Western Samoans ran up a 14-0 lead after 12 min-utes but had to cling on after tries by Richard Bramley and Morgan Garfield.

That fact makes Hingle's With little more than a year's his "pocket battleship". The could have been meteoric appetising, as she is likely to call on. Gomarsall is still a powerful alliance with Lawrence Dallaglio, Ben Clarke and Tim Rodber, who may not be the fastest back row on six legs but take some stopping when in full cry. The description of "I wish Rob well in his new challenge"; according to him "a cancer has been removed from the club". It tude of "I wish Rob well in his i reconverted England fly-half.

swift pass — the "fast hands" of rugby parlance — astute kicking and shrewd decision-making. He also has the priceless asset of confidence; a cockiness that is the scrumagainst Italy at Twickenham kicking and shrewd decision—television studio, but here was on Saturday, might have got the nod and Austin Healey, Leicester's converted wing cockiness that is the scrum—have been better able to ply

ture against a country desper-ate to be considered among Europe's elite.

Snooker

Wattana in trouble as Hunter keeps two-frame advantage

Clive Everton

PAUL HUNTER, an 18-year-old from Yorkshire who last February became the youngest ever semi-finalist in youngest ever semi-finalist in a world-ranking event, the Regal Welsh Open at Newport, struck back-to-back centuries to lead James Wattana 5-3 yesterday. The winner will claim a place in the 16-man televised phase of the UK Championship at Preston Guild Hall.

Hunter, last season's Rookie of the Year, stands 79th in the world rankings. Having whitewashed Willie Thorne 9-0 in the previous round he made breaks of 100 2-I down to 3-2 up. a 5-3 overnight lead over Thailand's No. 1 responded Jimmy White's conqueror, with a winning 66 but Hunter Tai Pichit.

took the two scrappiest frames of the session to secure his two-frame advantage at the close of play.

fire on all cylinders this season but even so made breaks of 74, 82 and 108 in consecu-tive frames to lead Rob Milkins 4-1. But the world cham-pion played poorly in the remaining three frames as Milkins levelled at 4-4 overnight.
Billy Snaddon opened with

a 102 break against the rising Liverpudlian Rod Lawler. lead 4-2 and went on to secure a 6-2 overnight advantage. Joe Johnson, the 1986 world and 136 yesterday to go from of the limelight recently, took

Athletics

Reebok's £1 million deal breaks sponsorship record

Panins 6-3, 6-2. She was happy with yesterday Baseline blasting is the suggests she was confident reality of women's tennis in her back would hold up.

EEBOK, the American Suportswear company founded in Bolton more than a century ago, has outbid its biggest rivals Nike and Addas to sign a deal worth athletic.

From next year Reebok will apply the kit for all Britain's sams competing internationally. It has stepped in to replace View From the Newcastle-based company run by Brendan Foster whose fouryear agreement with the British Athletic Federation ended in acrimony after last summer's Olympic Games.

View From was unhappy that athletes in Atlanta were prevented from wearing its vests and shorts because the British Olympic Association had its own kit agreement with Adidas, the German

company.
The first major event at which Reebok kit will be worn by British athletes will be the world indoor champi-onships in Paris next March.

The deal, which will be officially announced next month, is a coup for the BAF. Reebok offered 10 times what View offered 10 times what View From was paying and the agreement is even better than the one that Nike struck with USA Track & Field, which annually earns American athletics £700,000. As part of the agreement. Reebok will also market an official range of British athletics products.
The BAF will doubtless also

be hoping that Reebok will use the latest technological wise the latest technological wizardry to help promote the sport in Britain. Two years ago the company produced a television advertisement featuring a Manchester United Dream Team which included Dream Clause George Rest and Ryan Giggs, George Best and Bobby Chariton

But although the deal is the largeat ever signed by a national athletics federation, it is still small change com-pared with some of the deals Reebok has concluded with

Rugby League

Royce given chance to

HERE are sure to be

win his spurs

ION ROYCE, the England

Hockey

Under-21 coach, will act as senior team coach at the six-nation Pakistan Golden Jubilee Tournament in Karachi in March.

The position of England coach has become available because of the resignation of David Whitaker and the unavailability of the Olympic coach Jon Copp. It gives Royce, who elped England to a bronze

medal in the European Junior Championship and his club Teddington to league and cup titles, the opportunity to gain valu-able experience of a leading interpretional event before international event before he masterminds England's

he masterminds England's attempt to win the World Junior Cup at Milton Keynes next September. Royce, who has a reputation for being somewhat headstrong, will be working closely with the Olympic term manager David pic team manager David Whittle, who continues as England manager. The England squad to

prepare for the Pakistan tournament, from March 16-23, will be ann next week. Royce is sure to include several under-21 players and is expected to try to change the way England play, as he is on record as saying that "England are not positive enough end too scared of making mistakes".

"My aim is to include gifted play-makers and to pared with some of the deals Reebok has concluded with individual sportsmen and women. Glggs, for example, earns an estimated 25 million by wearing the company's football boots.

| pared with some of the deals Reebok has concluded with persevere with them. I performance against Ji. whose 11-15, 15-7, 15-9 victory helped the Chinese, overtheat the women. Glggs, for example, earns an estimated 25 million by wearing the company's football boots.

Rich pickings for Wire

enalls Brewery would en-

Paul Fitzpatrick

frictions next season in Australia where two competitions will be running, and that cannot be in the game's best interests. But at east the damaging legal battles are at an end, and the unveiling at Headingley today of next year's Super League programme, which includes an international club competition of all 22 European and Australian Super League sides, will take place in an atmosphere free of uncertainty.

A sense of anticipation was certainly tangible at Warring-ton yesterday where one of the biggest club sponsorships in the history of the sport was

able Warrington, now War-rington Wolves, to shed their role as "party-poopers" and compete on equal terms with St Helens, Wigan Warriors and Bradford Bulls. Their two latest signings, Martin Dermott, the former

Martin Dermott, the former Wigan and Great Britain hooker, and Dallas Mead, the 21-year-old prop from Auckland Warriors, were paraded yesterday and Murphy confirmed that they would be joined by two more Auckland Warriors, players in Nigel Warriors players in Nigel Vagana and Tony Tatupu Oldham and Castleford have also been trading in the

overseas market. Jim Quinn,
Oldham's chairman, is in
Brisbane where he has signed
Nathan Turner, a 22-year-old
the ground 8,000 seats.

City Tigers.
Widnes start work on their new ground today with the social club and two stands being demolished immedi-ately. The First Division club

Alex Murphy, the club's Badminton

Knowles given chance to make amends

Richard Jago

PETER KNOWLES's unexpected defeat by Ji Xing-ng at Mansfield the previous night made certain that the outcome of England's series against China would not be decided until the last of the six matches was played at Sheffleld last night. The England No. 2, who will

defend his Scottish Open title in Glasgow this week, was given a chance to make

in the fifth match of the tour. China's eventual winning nargin at Mansfield was 4-1, the biggest of the series. It cut England's series lead, once 3-0, to 3-2, though worse news for England was the knee in-jury suffered by John Quinn in the final encounter of the evening, the men's doubles with Chris Hunt. This left the home side last

night obliged to field an untried partnership in the rubber that had decided the outcome in the first four matches of this

Robertson had been England's outstanding player at Mansfield, where he Sarah Hardaker in the mixed doubles scored the home country's only win. Now heavy burden upon Hunt, required at Sheffield to play in both men's and mixed doubles as England strove for victory in a series that had once seemed theirs for the

taking.
"It was a disappointing performance in Mansfield," ad-mitted England's manager Steve Baddeley. "To lose the men's singles was particularly a surprise, and it will be even more disappointing if

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The Guardian SINTERACTIVE

Missing Jones lets Harris off hook, page 13 The Socceroos get their man, page 14

Becker keeps the home crowds buzzing, page 15

England's new scrum-half in focus, page 15

ports Guardian 1011

SOCCER: UEFA CUP

Third round, first leg: Metz 1, Newcastle United 1

Beardsley on the spot

Michael Walker in Metz

EWCASTLE survived a freezing night in France and a second-half rally by Metz and must be favourites to reach the last eight of this

Speculation before kick-off had changed from whether Alan Shearer would be fit enough to sit on the bench wasn't - to the rather more dramatic topic of

A blanket of thick snow was falling on Metz from about four o'clock and when the teams arrived at the ground the pitch was covered in snow. However, by kick-off time only traces of white remained even if the tempera-

ture was zero degrees. With both Shearer and Ferdinand absent Keegan nevertheless chose to keep Kitson as a substitute and instead gave Barton his third start of the season. Elliott, the other casualty from Saturday, gave way to Beresford in a flat back four.

As early as the first minute they were given a characteristic fright by the increasingly erratic kicking of Smicek. The Newcastle goalkeeper scuffed his clearance straight to Metz's red-booted danger-man Pires, but to his surprise he missed control and Traore was ruled offside.

Fortunately for Newcastle Smicek's next intervention in the 15th minute was considerably more proficient when he reacted sharply to paw away the lively Traore's downward

There was an inquest in the Newcastle defence after that and it looked at this stage that marked and five minutes later when the man from Senegal surged into the box, Albert made sure the first foot



Karning his stripes \dots the Newcastle striker Faustino Asprilla turns Metz's defence inside-out last night

Asprilla was going to have a long, lonely night in isolation. Yet the Colombian was showing a genuine relish for the occasion fighting vigor-ously for apparently lost The French were beginning causes. On the half hour he

to show touches of cohesion | did just that again and earned | tizi, and seemed set to score | ner. The roar from the travel- | rush at Lang's cross from the Newcastle a spectacular until Letizi brought him ling Newcastle fans was im- left.

> Chasing a long free-kick It was an obvious penalty from Albert Asprilla nipped and Beardaley, who missed in between his two markers, one in the last round against Terrier and Kastendeuch. Ferencyaros, made no mis-nicked the ball past both and take this time, drilling the the advancing goalkeeper Le- ball low into the bottom cor-

mense as was Batty's

were trading bounce for Either side of the interval shots from Pires and then Traore flew narrowly wide of Smicek's posts and then Pires

volleyed sumptuously, but again off target, after intri-cate approach play by An equaliser in this period shortly after half-time would not have flattered but Smicek by now had warmed to his task and with Elliott on for the injured Beresford the Newcastle backline was giv-

solid defence. There is, though, a madness in the method of most goal-keepers and in the 67th minute Srnicek undid all his previous good work with a rash

He is that

the radical

industrialist's

As an English

"Clearly, Dario

Fo has made

early belief

G2 page 8

with the

income.

theatre

critic drily

ing a useful impression of a

Charging performance.

Hustling, tackling, worrying — Baity kept everyone in black and white moving But in a see-sawing game Metz in a see-sawing game Metz in a see-sawing game Metz in the bynow empty net.

Serredszum, Pires, Blancherd, Isaias Tracre, Lang, Terrior, Arpinon Memphetics Srnicek; Barton (Elliott

 Internazionale vesterday played down speculation linking their English coach Roy Hodgson with a move to Blackburn The Italian club's vice-president Gianmaria Visconti said they had received no approach from Jack Walker's club and in any case the time was not right for anyone to ask permission to speak to Hodgson. "We are first in the League and play-ing in the Uefa Cup and the Italian Cup, so we are fully satisfied with what Roy is doing," said Visconti.

Abstinence makes book grow fonder



Jim White

HAT IS Mike Atherton going to do the next few months of bloody traipsing around Zimbabwe and New Zealand? There won't be any women to distract the touring party: well, at least no wives and girlfriends, left at home by a chaste new official directive After a while the group-bonding pranks, boat races and beer monsterings organised by the party's new technical dviser lan Botham will pail To help fill the long, lonely days, Atherton could do worse than pop a couple of books into his hold-all before be sets off next week; Mike Marqu-see's War Minus The Shooting (Heinemann) and Robert

(Gollanez), two wildly differ-ent accounts of the last cricket World Cup, for instance. He won't learn much he doesn't know from them, but it will be comforting to appreciate that other people are aware of the truth that dominates his life: as England ricket captain he enters the fray not so much with one hand tied behind his back as with all his limbs trussed up like the participant in a sadomasochistic ritual, Except, in the case of the English game. there is nothing sado about it.

Winder's Hell For Leather

Margusee, the American cricket convert, makes the un-happy observation that it was possible to enjoy the World Cup while avoiding England entirely: they were, after all, also-rans, left behind in the wash of the game's modernisa irrelevance. "No team contrib uted less to the competition. won fewer friends or made more enemies.

Winder, on the other hand, chooses to attach himself to England, and observes their shame from close quarters; his account is thus the more instructive. And its conclusions are all the more damning because, as his graceful prose suggests, he is no curmudgeon, rather he seems de perate to have something posi live to write home about. Instead, it is the long list of English fallure he has to communicate with his wry pen: poor preparation, amateurish public relations, players no

longer capable of doing any-

thing but complaining about a Job most of us tans would kill for, And over it all the withering drone of Geoff Boycott, the team's termentor in chief. whose name would translate into Apache as "He Who Knows It All".

One thing, though, Winder reckons, it was not the players' ault. Were they from any other country, Thorpe, Cork, Stewart and Atherton would be world-beaters. More to the point, were the Waughs, De Silva, Jayasuriya and Jonty Rhodey English, they would be on the losing side. Had Sachin Tendulkar been born in this country, Winder suggests, this is how he would have ended up: sitting at home during the forthcoming winter tour, publicly humiliated by his international manager, widely reckoned a criminal waster of natural talent, Just like Mark Ramprakash, in fact.

We all know what Winder is on about, that England have been left behind in the international game not because the talent has dried up but because they insist on entering the fray dragged down by the pair of concrete boots that is the county circuit, the moralesapping grind that wore down even the likes of Brian Lara and Allan Donald.

We know that money drawn from popular international matches is wasted subsidising something that no one — players or spectators — wants. We know it is a pointless, counterproductive, second-rate operation which resembles noth-ing more than the Scottish Premier Division, Except without Rangers and Celtic.

THERTON knows it, too. He knows that imposing a bonking ban, hringing in an old maestro as coach and organising a tour against the weaker nations in the hope of building a winning habit is just rearranging the deck-chairs on the Titanic. Unless the whole structure is changed, his winters — and most of hi summers — will continue spin-

ning down a vortex of misery. But he, like Winder and the rest of us. knows the only hope is that some Gorbachev or De Klerk emerges from within the county structure and persuades his colleagues to vote themselves into oblivion for the sake of the country.

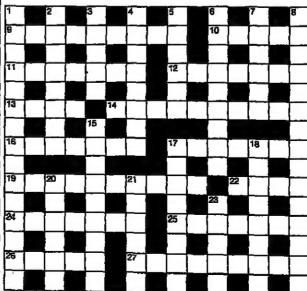
An unlikely thought, that. After all, if the blazerati didn't have their privileges, how would they get tickets for the 2000 World Cup final at Lord's? Sri Lanka v India should be a cracker, that. Especially as it will provide end-less opportunity to engage in the national sport: wondering why we can't produce players like that any more.



rarest of creatures. playwright observed on visiting Fo's flat in Milan: a spectacular recovery from any that property is theft." Lyn Gardner

Guardian Crossword No 20,815

Set by Shed



Across

9 An Arab's mount, perhaps, without lines to the constellation (9)

10 Knock out model making corneback in the city (5)

11 Gift of 18 bearing South (7) 12 Walk with a slightly disabled US lawyer (7)

14 Chauvinist taking time to fix and categorise (10) 16 Mean to say a vicar gets a

return (7) 17 Happened to find origin of Norman church in African state (7)

19 Rule on motorway receiving gift? Vice versa (10) 22 Word beloved of

25 Alpino devised a musi machine (7)

26 Round cow's complaint — contains additive and fat (5) 27 Mice and men aft agley, wanting fishhead for ple filling (9)

Down 1 Shed goes to China and 13 Russian front one preceded Poland for a piece of 23

2 Ideal place for modern art collection lacking bite (8)

3 see 20

4 Fell about in charge for brimstone (8) 5,8 Weathercock Foreign Office featured in show — a racket, taking soft drink with

piece of 23 (6,3,1,4,7) 6 Native of the kingdom precipitate Scot (9)

7 Overthrow overthrown by 23

8 see 5

15 One using needle at sea on ship (9)

17 18 concealing quiet force making 27 (8) 18 MC almost introducing lar musician (8)

20,3 Ministry, therefore wearing trousers in 23 suite (6,5)

21 Nightmare culture raised by universal scholar (6) 23 18 in tangle (5)

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